FRIDAY
July 3, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 57 • No. 157

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

To subscribe, give a missed call at 9828331787 or scan QR code

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

PRIVATISATION OF DISTRIBUTION

Escoms told to file objections with KERC

KARNATAKA » PAGE 10

FIFA WORLD CUP

Gritty Belgium claws back from the brink

SPORT » PAGE 19

FUEL PRICES

'Cuts only after cheaper crude reaches India'

BUSINESS » PAGE 17

DELHI RIOTS CASES

Right to a fair trial at a crossroads

Endless imprisonment raises urgent questions

EDITORIAL » PAGE 12

NATIONWIDE LAUNCH

VB-G RAM G rolled out from A.P. village

NEWS » PAGE 15

NEARBY

Protocol violations alleged in SIR exercise

BENGALURU
Even as the SIR of electoral rolls entered its third day, allegations of violations of the Election Commission's protocol during the door-to-door enumeration exercise surfaced from different parts of the State. » PAGE 7

HC stays GO to withdraw Aland violence cases

BENGALURU
The High Court of Karnataka stayed the May 27 GO for withdrawing eight criminal cases registered in connection with the violence at Aland town in March 2022. » PAGE 11

METROPLUS » PAGE 9

Free Indo-Pacific a priority for India and Japan: Modi

During first visit to India as PM, Takaichi says both countries are 'perfectly aligned' and stresses the need for 'strategic cooperation'; both sides sealed 129 MoUs on technology, investment and AI

Saurabh Trivedi
Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

A "free and rules-based Indo-Pacific" is a common priority for India and Japan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday while welcoming his Japanese counterpart, Sanae Takaichi. Mr. Modi said India and Japan would jointly develop technologies that would help in maintaining maritime security and "regional peace".

"India and Japan are among the biggest economies of the world. A free, prosperous and rules-based Indo-Pacific is our shared priority. We will jointly pave the way for peace, stability and progress for the entire region," Mr. Modi said.

Boosting ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Japanese counterpart Sanae Takaichi in New Delhi. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"In the field of defence, India and Japan have done the first agreement for co-development of projects. This agreement on naval radio antenna will open a new chapter of defence technology partnership. Now, we will jointly develop such technologies that will help in maintaining regional peace, maritime security, and strengthen rules-based order," Mr. Modi added.

Ms. Takaichi, who arrived in New Delhi on July 1 for her first visit to India as Prime Minister, renewed her call for an updated free and open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) and emphasised the need for "strategic cooperation". She said the two countries were "perfectly aligned".

Mr. Modi and Ms. Takaichi attended an economic session in which Indian and Japanese companies sealed 129 memoranda of understanding on technology, investment, and artificial intelligence.

According to a document shared by the External Affairs Ministry, Japan is on track to invest $1 trillion across States, including Haryana, Odisha, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and those in the northeastern region.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

7 dead as boulder collapses at a quarry near Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Battered remains: The aftermath of the boulder collapse at the stone quarry site, near Bengaluru on Thursday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Seven workers, including six migrants, were killed, and five were injured after a massive boulder collapsed on them at a stone quarry in Hulukenahalli village in Tavarekere Hobli on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Thursday morning.

Several workers were engaged in stone-cutting and quarrying activities when a huge rock mass became detached from the quarry face and came crashing down on them from a height of about 40 feet. The boulder collapsed on some vehicles, including a tractor trolley which was loading crushed stones, and left several workers trapped.

Seven labourers – five from Madhya Pradesh, and one each from Karnataka and Chhattisgarh – were killed on the spot. Five others who were injured were rushed to a hospital for treatment as Tavarekere police and fire and emergency services carried out rescue operations.

The police registered a case against five people, including the quarry owners and supervisors, for culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

Gopi, a quarry worker from Tamil Nadu who escaped in the nick of time, claimed that several people employed at the Basaveshwara quarry were working at the top of the boulder trying to pry out the rock mass, which then broke free and rolled down on to the workers at the neighbouring S.R. Udayashankar quarry. "If only they had informed us beforehand, many victims could have been saved," he told presspersons.

The police are still investigating the cause of the accident.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 4
RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGE 4

SC sets aside NCLT order, says it relied on AI-crafted case laws

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

Observing that the use of non-existent or AI-generated hallucinated judicial precedents is "catastrophic" to the judicial process, the Supreme Court set aside an order of the National Company Law Tribunal after finding that it had relied on fictitious AI-generated case laws.

A Bench comprising Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe underscored that courts must adopt a "zero-tolerance" approach towards the reliance on AI-generated precedents without independent verification as it "contaminates" the very "lifeblood of judicial determination".

"Even if an iota of fake or hallucinated material enters the decision-making process, it would violate the sanctity of adjudication. It is absolutely necessary to maintain integrity in decision-making, and we reiterate and declare zero tolerance for the Bar as well as the Bench to cite, refer to, or rely on such material," the Bench said.

Cautioning against AI-generated hallucinations quietly permeating legal practice, it warned that reliance on fictitious precedents "subverts the rule of law". While acknowledging that "increased workloads" have compelled lawyers and judges to adapt to AI to improve efficiency, it underlined that meaningful human oversight must remain integral to every stage of the adjudicatory process.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

July power bill to be based on average

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the ongoing verification of Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries keeping meter readers busy, the next month's electricity bill will be based on the average usage of the past three months.

The Energy Department has instructed all the meter readers to visit the houses at least three times in case of their absence at home.

The average calculation is applicable only for domestic consumers and not to the commercial users like hotels, industries etc.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 6

Perry and Gardner — linchpins of an imperious Aussie machine

The all-rounders have shown time and again that they are among the creme de la creme of elite cricket; they are now one hurdle away from adding another T20 World Cup to their cabinets

P.K. Ajith Kumar
LONDON

When Radha Yadav ran towards the chance offered by Beth Mooney at long-on, there was tension in the air at Lord's. Under normal circumstances, you would expect Radha to take the catch with ease; she has taken much tougher, more spectacular ones all through her career. She is one of the best fielders in women's cricket.

But at the Women's T20 World Cup, she had been going through a terrible time. She was just failing to catch. It looked like she was incapable of even catching a cold. The 26-year-old did catch Mooney, though. And she was relieved and happy, she threw the ball down furiously.

The Women in Blue celebrated. They had posted what appeared to be a competitive total of 170 for four, thanks largely to skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's brilliant shot-making towards the end. But for her 27-ball 56, Australia would have finished off the match well ahead of schedule.

When Deepti Sharma accounted for Mooney, the Australian scorecard read 68 for three in 9.1 overs. Another 103 runs were still required in less than 11 overs. The Indian players, and the large crowd that came to cheer them on, had reasons to hope.

The one that took it away

Watching Mooney depart was her long-time teammate Ellyse Perry. She was joined by Ashleigh Gardner. Together, they ended India's hopes of reaching the semifinals.

They forged what was one of the best partnerships you would come across at this level. There was still plenty of batting left for Australia – no team bats as deep as it – but they were determined to finish the job themselves. If one of them had been dismissed, India would have been back in the game. They did not get out until the match was decided. When Perry finally fell, skying a catch to Shafali Verma off the impressive Shree Charani, Australia needed just three to win.

Perry and Gardner showed yet again how crucial they are in a side filled with match-winners. This may be a team in transition, after the retirements of Meg Lanning and Alyssa Healy, but it remains well ahead of main rivals like England and India, especially in the shortest format.

In the semifinal against the West Indies at the Oval on Wednesday, Perry had to go back to the dressing room after playing just seven balls, retired hurt. But it was just a precaution, Mooney would later clarify. Gardner had another starring role. She made an unbeaten 35 off 20 balls to help Australia finish the chase of a very modest total with seven overs to spare.

Back in the groove

She had been amongst the wickets, too. That is good news for Australia ahead of Sunday's final at Lord's. Gardner is glad to have got her bowling rhythm back.

"I feel like I probably haven't had the impact that I would have liked, especially with the ball," she said shortly after winning the Player-of-the-Match award in the last-four clash. "I've probably just been a little bit inconsistent. When Sophie (Molineux) has thrown me the ball, I probably haven't played the role that she has probably wanted."

But Gardner delivered against the West Indies, taking two for 13. "In this game, I had that type of performance, certainly when it mattered," she said. "It is always really pleasing. I guess that it gives me a lot of confidence going forward."

Shift in mindset

The 29-year-old said it was more of a mindset thing. "I feel like I just tried to make my game really simple. I focused on looking at the stumps when I was bowling. That sounds really silly, but when I was narrowing my focus, I could execute a little better. We knew that keeping the stumps in play for a long period of time, just with the variability in the bounce, really helped."

Gardner felt that her performance against India was a morale-booster. "Cricket is a very humbling sport at times, but you try to ride that confidence to really utilise it," she said. "Cricket is such a unique game where you can feel like you are hitting the ball well but then you make no runs. So I guess it is about trying to take out the positives that you can."

Looking back at Australia's convincing win over India, Gardner said she enjoyed the 100-run partnership with Perry. "That was one of the best partnerships I have been involved in. There are not too many other people within this unit that I have played so much cricket with. I have played with Perry for well over 10 years now, so we have a great understanding of each other's game."

Blindly trusting each other

Both had tremendous trust in each other. "We were really specific and deliberate in the way we were speaking in the middle," she said. "Understanding each other and giving each other options out there... to have that is pretty cool."

Perry relished that alliance just as much. "It was a really enjoyable partnership with Ash," said the woman regarded by many as the greatest female cricketer of all time. "Having had the opportunity to watch the way the first innings played out, we knew that it was sort of possible to accelerate through the middle and back end."

She was all praise for Gardner's approach. "The way Ash came out was really important in the context of the game. I thought that she shifted the momentum beautifully. We spoke a lot about targeting the first couple of balls of an over, and she did that incredibly well. It just gave us some momentum in the chase. On a good ground, once you get that, you sort of put yourself in a good position. So, it was a lot of fun."

Gardner was as effusive in the praise of Perry. "She is like red wine," Gardner said. "She is someone who has gotten better and better. Just the evolution of her game.. she has known that the global game has gone at such a fast pace and that it doesn't settle or slow down for anyone. So she knows that she needs to keep up with that pace."

Gardner admires Perry's bravery. "It can be quite hard at times when you feel like you don't have that confidence, but she is someone who always tries to take the game on. For someone with so much experience and so much willingness to keep evolving, it just shows younger players like me that there is no real ceiling on that stuff. She is a fantastic leader within our group, within that space, and generally as well."

Unique in their own way

While Perry is at the top of her game more often than not, she stressed that every tournament had its own challenges. "This one has been extremely enjoyable and the quality of cricket that has been played right across the competition... the response from the English public to watch the matches has been amazing, too," she said. "The atmosphere at various grounds has been so cool to play at. Beating India was a real highlight."

Perry described skipper Molineux as "unique". "Every captain I play with is unique, but Soph brings a very unique style," Perry said. "She is such a people's person. She makes everyone laugh. She knows when to have fun, when to be serious.

"She makes sure that they are heard all the time and are valued for their contribution to the group. I hope that kind of comes across in the way we are playing because it's been so much fun. It doesn't guarantee you anything but when you are playing with that kind of enjoyment, it creates an opportunity for a team to do some really good things."

The two brave women are now ready for the final. They will go into that match at Lord's with impressive numbers.

Perry has 2,482 T20I runs and 131 wickets, while Gardner, who has played lesser games, has 1,630 runs and 84 wickets.

It is to be recalled that Australia hasn't won an ICC event since 2023. "Not having any trophies in the cabinet has probably been frustrating over the last 18 months," Gardner said.

"It is really pleasing that going forward we can take the confidence out of what we have done. Hopefully, we win another trophy on Sunday".

THE GIST

- In the ongoing T20 World Cup, Perry and Gardner ended India's hopes of reaching the semifinals with a 100-run partnership
- In the last-four stage, Gardner proved her class with a Player-of-the-Match performance
- The duo, which enters the title clash with impressive numbers, will look to end Australia's three-year wait for an ICC title

> Skipper Molineux brings a very unique style. She is such a people's person. She makes everyone laugh. She knows when to have fun, when to be serious
> **PERRY**

> There are not too many other people within this unit that I have played so much cricket with. I have played with Perry for over 10 years now, so we have a great understanding of each other's game
> **GARDNER**

Tuition fee for SC students of management/NRI medical, engg. seats not refunded yet

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

A year after the Karnataka government issued an order to refund the tuition fees of Scheduled Caste (SC) students who got Management and Non-Resident Indian (NRI) quota seats in engineering, medical and other professional courses, no student has received any refund so far.

The Social Welfare Department has released ₹20 crore for refunding the fees of these students in the first quarter of the current year's Budget recently, but it is yet to reach the students. Some students and parents have alleged that the grant has been used for other projects.

Some students and parents have alleged that the grant has been used for other projects

"My son was admitted to Ambedkar Medical College in Bengaluru last year under management quota seat by paying ₹12 lakh. I took a bank loan and paid the college fees. However, the government has not yet reimbursed the fees even though it said it would bear the cost. We have also taken a loan for the II year MBBS fees. Despite several requests to the Social Welfare Department, the officials have not refunded the fees," lamented Suresh, the parent of a beneficiary student from Vijayapura district.

How scheme works

For professional courses, the Social Welfare Department is refunding the fees to SC students whose annual family income is within ₹2.5 lakh per annum, for government seats in government colleges and government quota seats in private colleges.

The government also provides tuition fees to medical and engineering students from SC communities whose family income is above ₹2.5 lakh but within ₹10 lakh from the funds allocated to the Medical Education and Technical Education Departments under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for Scheduled Tribes (SCSP/TSP).

The State government issued an order on May 9, 2025, to fully refund the tuition fees to SC students whose family income is up to a maximum of ₹10 lakh and who have secured seats in private engineering and medical colleges under the management and NRI quota.

However, this is yet to materialise.

In the current year's State Budget, the department allocated ₹80 crore for the first quarter of the current year's Budget allocated for the SCP/TSP programmes for reimbursement of candidates who got management and NRI quota, engineering and medical seats, hostel expenses, and purchase of essential things for pre-matric and post-matric hostels and other expenses, of which a total of ₹20 crore has been released.

'Will stage a protest'

With students not getting the money, they are now alleging that all the money has been used to purchase material and none to reimburse tution fees. "The fund released for reimbursing the fees of management quota and NRI quota students has been used to purchase cots, beds and other material for hostels by the Social Welfare Department. The department should immediately refund the fees to the students. If it fails, we will start a protest," warned Venugopal Maurya, State convener, Democratic Dalit Student Federation.

The Commissioner of the Social Welfare Department was not available for comments.

BMTC plans audio advts. on buses; passengers raise concern over impact on stop announcements

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After wrapping its buses with commercial advertisements, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is now planning to introduce audio advertisements inside its buses for the first time, a move aimed at generating additional non-fare revenue.

The proposal has sparked concerns among regular commuters, particularly over its potential impact on the bus stop announcement system designed to assist passengers, including the visually impaired.

A senior BMTC official said that the corporation would soon float a separate tender for the initiative.

The official said that the audio advertisement system is currently used at the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus stands, where advertisements are played between public announcements.

According to the official, all BMTC buses are now equipped with voice-based passenger information systems that announce upcoming bus stops. Under the proposed plan, advertisements will be played in the intervals between these stop announcements.

"We are planning to insert advertisements between bus stop announcements inside the BMTC buses," the official said.

The BMTC, which operates services across urban, suburban and rural areas in and around Bengaluru, has increasingly focused on commercial utilisation of its assets to supplement passenger fare revenue. Besides wrapping buses with advertisements, the corporation earns through leasing land, renting commercial spaces at bus terminals, office spaces, parking facilities and advertising panels on buses. The corporation currently operates 6,158 buses including 1,027 electric buses. During the 2023-24 financial year, the BMTC generated ₹811 crore in non-traffic revenue from various commercial sources.

All BMTC buses are equipped with voice-based passenger information systems that announce upcoming bus stops. FILE PHOTO

Commuters question whether introducing advertisements into voice announcement system can compromise a facility that serves an important public purpose

Commuters oppose

However, several commuters questioned whether introducing advertisements into the voice announcement system could compromise a facility that serves an important public purpose.

Venkatesh Babu, a regular BMTC commuter from Jayanagar, said that the voice announcement system is primarily meant to help passengers identify bus stops, especially those who are visually challenged or unfamiliar with a route. "It is unfair to insert commercial advertisements between bus stop announcements. The audio announcement system exists for a reason, it helps visually challenged passengers travel independently and also assists people who are new to Bengaluru or travelling on an unfamiliar route. Adding advertisements in between could create unnecessary confusion, distract passengers from important stop information and dilute the effectiveness of a system that is meant to improve accessibility."

Another commuter, Sindhu Ram from Magadi Road, said that the BMTC should first ensure that the existing announcement system functions reliably before introducing advertisements.

"In many BMTC buses, the audio announcement system either doesn't work at all or functions inconsistently. Instead of first fixing these issues, the corporation seems more focused on finding new ways to generate revenue. The BMTC should invest the same effort in ensuring every bus has a properly functioning announcement system before considering audio advertisements," she said.

INBRIEF

Leprosy officer caught accepting ₹15,000 bribe

A District Leprosy Officer attached to the Department of Health and Family Welfare was reportedly caught red-handed by the Lokayukta Police while allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹15,000 from a doctor for approving a licence under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act, 2007.

The accused has been identified as Bhujabali D. Yalagudri, 54, District Leprosy Officer, Bengaluru Urban District. A case has been registered against him under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the property mentioned in the schedule below from its lawful owner **Sri. S. Manjunath S/o S.R. Sridhara Murthy.** I hereby call upon the general public that, if any person has any manner of legal right, title, interest or claim over Schedule Property, shall submit their objections and claims, if any with complete records in support of their claim with **7 days** from today to the address mentioned below. Thereafter no claims of whatsoever nature shall be entertained by my client and my client would proceed to purchase the schedule property presuming that the present owner of the schedule property is the owner of the same.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcels of agricultural land in **Sy. No. 159/8 to 159/11** totally measuring **5 Guntas,** situated at **Shivakote Village, Hesaragatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru District** and bounded on:
East by : Road, West by : Land in Sy No. 157, North by : Sy No. 159/7, South by : Sy. No. 159/12.

YASHVANTH. K.V. Advocate
No. 34, E Block Extn.,
Sahakaranagara, Benagluru-92
Mob: 9980668759.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Mrs.Lekhana.B W/o Mr.Dhanushram.K** is intending to purchase the schedule property from **Mr.M.Anand Reddy S/o Mr.G.Muni Reddy;** person/s objecting for the proposed purchasers or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Site. No.21, e-PID No.5301347551,** Khatha No. 650, Property No. 545, Situated at **KALKERE VILLAGE, K. R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** measuring East to West: **35 Feet** and North to South: **(56+56.5)/2 Feet,** totally measuring **1968.75 Sq. Feet** and now comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Ward No.26, Bangalore together with all rights, appurtenances in whatsoever manner whether hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded as follows and bounded on:-
East by : Site. No. 20 belongs to G. Muni Reddy (Donor Herein), West by : Site. No. 22, North by : Property belongs to Sri. Rudrappa, South by : 25 Feet Road.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845846428, 9108784843, 080-48658774
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

This is to inform the general public that my clients, Smt.Jayamma, Smt.Kamalamma, and Smt.Nagarathna (Plaintiffs), have filed a Partition Suit bearing O.S. No.543/2021 against Smt.Chikkamarakka and others (Defendants). The said suit is currently pending before the Court of 1st Additional Senior Civil Judge at Nelamangala.

The subject matter of the said suit is the ancestral properties detailed in the Schedule below (hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule Properties"). The Plaintiffs have claimed a 3/8th equal share in the plaint schedule properties.

Through this Public Notice, the general public, prospective buyers, investors, banks, and financial institutions are hereby strongly cautioned **NOT to deal with, Purchase, Agreement of Sale, accept as mortgage, lease, or enter into any kind of transaction** regarding the Schedule Properties.

Any person or entity entering into any transaction regarding the Schedule Properties shall be doing so entirely at their own risk, cost, and consequences. Such transactions shall not be binding on my clients and will be strictly subject to the final outcome of the pending suit under the legal doctrine of Lis Pendens (Section 52 of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882).

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTIES

1. ITEM No.1:
All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy.No.45/3 measuring 8 acre 12 guntas excluding 3 guntas of Kharab land situated at Arjunabettahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk.

2. ITEM NO.2:
All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy.No.45/2B measuring 24 guntas situated at Arjunabettahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk.

3. ITEM NO.3:
All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy. No.45/2A measuring 1 acre 11 guntas situated at Arjunabettahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk.

4. ITEM No.4:
All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy.No.124/1A measuring 23 guntas situated at Gollahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk.

5. ITEM NO.5:
All that piece and parcel of Land bearing Sy.No.131/3/A measuring 09 guntas situated at Gollahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk.

6. ITEM NO.6:
All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy.No.45/1A measuring 1 acre 30 (which includes 3 guntas of Kharab) and land bearing Sy.No.45/1B measuring 0.29 guntas (which includes 1 guntas of Kharab) both are situated at Arjunabetta Halli village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

PAPANNA.L. Advocate
"NIVEDA" No.87, Ground Floor,
"A" Main, 6th "A" Cross, Defence Colony,
Bangalore - 560 073.
Email: papanna.advocate@gmail.com
Mobile No. : 9008175007
Bangalore Date : 02-07-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client SMT.R.DEEPASHREE to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original Site Hakkupatra issued by Government of Karnataka in the name of Smt. Vasanthalakshmi, Vide No.04158, dated 15.03.2006 in respect of Property bearing No.37, Situated at Hosabyrohalli Village (Archakara Layout) Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 20 ft and North to South 30 ft, total measuring 600 Sq.ft., has been lost at the time of travelling.
All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said Original Site Hakku Patra. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days from this present along with that Police Complaint is also given vide Lost Report No.2285346/2026, dated 02.07.2026.

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor,
5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar
2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its owners **Sri.B.Keerthivasan** S/o Sri.P.R.Balasubramanian and his wife **Smt.Hemalatha.C.N.,** residing at: No.35, Kadhi Commission Layout, Vivekananda Nagar, Kathriguppe Main Road, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore – 560085.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Vacant residential Site No.752, bearing Property No.757/389/752, having E-Khatha PID No.7584697338 [in the residential Layout named as "Sri.B.L.Lakkegowda Nagara" formed by the BHARATH HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD., in Survey Nos.77(P), 78(P), 79, 80(P), 87(P), 88/1(P) of Uttarahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk], measuring East to West: 60 ft, North to South: 40 ft, in all measuring 2400 Sq.ft., situated at Bharath HBCS, Uttarahalli, Bangalore, within the jurisdiction of Bangalore South City Corporation Ward No.184 – Uttarahalli Ward and bounded as follows:

East by : Road
West by : Private Property
North by : Site No.753
South by : Site No.751

Sd/- S.F.Goutam Chand, Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Office of the Recovery Office - I/III
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE-(DRT-2)
Ministry of Finance, Department of Fiancial Services
4th Floor, Telephone House Builiding Rajbhavan Road Bengaluru - 560001

Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961.

RC No. 548/2025 IN OA No. 1367/2022
KARNATAKA BANK LIMITED V/s
SRI GAVIN ADRIAN BROWN AND ANOTHER

In the Matter of : (CH) Karnataka Bank Limited, Minerva Circle Branch, Situated At No. 163, Rajeshwari Complex, R. V. Road, V. V. Puram, Bengaluru - 560 004, Karnataka. **... Certificate Holder**

V/s

(CD1) Sri Gavin Adrian Brown S/o. Sri Gordon Brown, R/at E-403, MIMS Residency, Ground Floor, Jakkur Layout, Jakkur Near Railway Track, Bengaluru - 560 064. Karnataka

(CD2) Mrs. R. Shwetha Rama W/o. Sl. Gavin Adrian Brown, R/at 1 32A 135C 305, Arun Patios Apartrment Kenchenahalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560 064, Karnataka **... Certificate Debtors**

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE (DRT-2) in **OA /1367/2022** an amount of **Rs.66,87,374.76** (Rupees Sixty Six Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Four and Paise Seventy Six Only) along with pendentellite and future interest @ 10 % simple Interest monthly w.e.f. 13.02.2022 till realization in full and costs of Rs.69,000/- (Rupees Sixty Nine Thousand Only) has become due jointly, severaly and personally from the Certificate Debtors. 2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rules there under. 3.You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. **4.** You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 18.11.2026 at 10.30 a.m. for further proceedings. 5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will be liable to pay: (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings. (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processess and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **05.03.2026.**

Sd/- Recovery Officer
Debts Recovery Tribunal Bangalore (DRT-2)

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: "Rule 16 (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debt Recovery Officer, nor shall any Civil Court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. (2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 years.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby informed that our clients intend to verify the right, title and interest of (1) Sri M. Ashoka @ Muniyappa Ashoka, S/o. Late C. Muniyappa, (2) Smt. Shamantha J, W/o. M. Ashoka @ Muniyappa Ashoka, (3) Sri Koushal A.S. Reddy, S/o. M. Ashoka @ Muniyappa Ashoka, (4) Ms. Meghana A Reddy, D/o. M. Ashoka @ Muniyappa Ashoka, No.1 to 4 are residing at No. 7, R V Nilaya, Via Varthur. Nekkundi, Dommasandra, Bangalore- 560087 (Owners) and V.S.R. Builders and Developers, a partnership firm having its registered office at No. 261, 7th Cross Road, 27th Main Road, 1st Sector, H.S.R. Layout, Bangalore-560102, ("Developer"). The Owners and Developer have represented that they are the absolute owners and have development rights over the Schedule Property, and no other person/s has/have any manner of right, title or interest thereon.

Public is notified that any person/s having any right, title, claim or interest in the Schedule Property or any objection/s of any manner to the above transaction or otherwise are hereby called upon to notify the undersigned with supporting documents within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date. If no such claims are received, it would be deemed that the Owners and Developer have clear and marketable title along with development rights over the Schedule Property and that no person/s, entity, firm, institution (corporate or otherwise) has any claim over the Schedule Property and/or claim/s if any, will be deemed to have been waived or abandoned.;

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immoveable property detailed below situated at Nekkundi Dommasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Extent		Boundaries			
		Acre	Guntas	East By	West By	North By	South By
1.	52	0	17	Remaining portion of Sy No. 52	Sy. No. 79/5, 79/8, 79/10, 80 and 81	Public Road	Sy.No. 78
2.	79/3	0	9	Sy. No. 80	Nala	Sy No. 79/2, 79/12 & 79/7	Sy No. 79/4 & Sy No. 79/5
3.	79/6	0	3	Sy No. 79/10	Nala	Sy. No. 79/4	Sy. No. 79/8
4.	64/1	0	13.87	Remaining portion of Sy No.64/1 and Nala	Remaining portion of Sy No.64/1 & Sy No.56	Nala	Sy No. 64/4

Adv. Harsha Sudhindra,
Partner,
Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas,
Advocates and Solicitors,
Prestige Falcon Tower, 3rd Floor, Brunton Road,
Off M. G. Road, Bangalore 560 025, Karnataka, India
Tel. No.: 080 67922000, M : 7907417597

Date : 03-07-2026
Place : Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, BENGALURU
BSNL Builiding 4th Floor, Telephone House Rajbhavan Road Bengaluru - 560001

DRC No. 14160

Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))

Karnataka Bank Limited, Banaswadi Branch, No.963, 5A-C, Banasawadi, Outer Ring Road, HRBR Layout, Block-1, Kalyana Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 043. **... Certificate Holder**

Versus

MR. RYAN J. C. & OTHERS **....Defendants/Certified Debtors**

DEMAND NOTICE

To

1. Mr. Ryan J. C. S/o. Ned Joseph Cochran, No. 27, Puliyar Koil Street, Off Castle Street, Ashok Nagar, Near Empire Hotel, Bengaluru - 560 043.

Mr. Ned Joseph Cochran, S/o. A. J, Cochran,No. 27, Puliyar Koil Street, Off Castle Street, Ashok Nagar, Near Empire Hotel, Bengaluru - 560 043.

Mr. Madhusudan S/o. Chakrapani, No. 1 & 2, SLV Residency, House No. 4, Spathagiri Layout, Munekolala, Mattahalli, Bengaluru - 560 043.

In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **O.A. No.564/2017** passed by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bangalore an amount of **Rs.45,48,156.00** (Rupees Forty Five Lakhs Forty Eight Thousand One Hundred and Fifty Six Only) is due against you along with interest and costs from date of filing of O.A.s till realization.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay :
a)Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution proceedings.
b)All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **05.10.2018**

Sd/- Recovery Officer-1
Debts Recovery Tribunal-1, Bengaluru

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below:
"Rule 16 (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debt Recovery Officer, nor shall any Civil Court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. (2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE (HSFC)
Construction & Maintenance Group (CMG)
Devanahalli, Karnataka-562164 Ph:080-29916308

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, Online Item rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works:

Sr. No.	Title of work and NIT no.	Estimated Cost put to tender	Period of Completion	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	Due date and time of Submission	Date of Tender Opening	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)
01	Maintenance Contract for Civil, PH, Electrical, AC, Horticulture & Housekeeping works (for two years) at Training facility at HSFC, Marathahalli, Bengaluru. **HSFC/CMG/MM/C/175/2026-27, Dt: 02.07.2026**	₹160.27 Lakhs	24 Months	From 03.07.2026 (11.00 hrs) to 15.07.2026 (23.30 hrs)	17.07.2026 up to 10.30 hrs	17.07.2026 up to 11.00 hrs	₹3,20,540/-
02	Term Contract for Electrical Maintenance at HSFC (Marathahalli and Devanahalli), Bengaluru (Electrical Works) **HSFC/CMG/MM/E/176/2026-27, Dt: 02.07.2026**	₹15.00 Lakhs	12 Months				₹30,000/-
03	SITC of 7.5HP submersible pump in an existing drilled bore well at HSFC, Devanahalli. **HSFC/CMG/MM/C/E/177/2026-27, Dt: 02.07.2026**	₹7.23 Lakhs	02 Months				₹14,460/-

Tender documents can be downloaded from website **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** by registering with tender wizard and paying tender processing fee. The procedure for vender registration is displayed in the above website. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) from website **www.isro.gov.in** For further details and Purchase of tender documents visit **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.**

Sd/- Head CMD, CMG, HSFC

Can space oncology revolutionise cancer treatment?

Even as the burden of cancer is rising in India, space oncology is a rapidly emerging field, investigating how microgravity and cosmic radiation impact cancer progression and treatment

K. Ganapathy

Latest advances: Cancer is biologically diverse. Understanding divergent mechanobiological responses helps identify signalling pathways fundamental to metastasis, tissue invasion and treatment resistance. ISTOCKPHOTO

Cancer is a group of diseases where abnormal cells grow uncontrollably, invading nearby tissues and sometimes spreading to distant organs of the body. In India, an estimated 1.87 million new cases are likely to be diagnosed in 2026, which means 1 in 9 Indians reading this article are at a lifetime risk of developing cancer.

Damage wreaked on the body apart, cancer is one of the most economically disruptive illnesses for families. Every year, ₹3,400 crores is spent on direct and indirect medical costs for cancer: this, however, excludes income loss, debt, asset depletion and caregiver burden.

It is no wonder then, that with the burden of cancer rising in India and globally, that it is one of the most widely-studied diseases in the world. And it is this research that has led to the emergence of what could perhaps become a new frontier in cancer treatment: space oncology.

What is space oncology?

Space oncology is a rapidly emerging field, investigating how microgravity and cosmic radiation impact cancer progression and treatment. Space is a natural laboratory for studying cancer biology. Space-based environments are studied to accelerate tumour modelling and drug discovery.

Space oncology has already produced useful, conceptual and technological spin-offs, ranging from 3D cell-culture systems to protein-crystal studies for cancer drug development. This is in addition to refined thinking about radiation risk, tissue response and biomarker discovery.

Why this is useful?

Cancer is biologically diverse. Understanding divergent mechanobiological responses helps identify signalling pathways fundamental to metastasis, tissue invasion and treatment resistance.

Some cell changes that have been identified as a result of microgravity are cytoskeletal reorganisation, altered focal-adhesion signalling, changes in extracellular-matrix interactions and spontaneous formation of multicellular spheroids. Each is relevant to tumour spread and therapeutic response.

When it comes to drugs, researchers have found that microgravity changes the cytoskeleton and spheroid formation of cells, which can help hasten drug discovery and also lead to reduced animal testing for drugs.

As microgravity also allows for more uniform protein crystals and lower-viscosity biologics, this could help develop more stable formulations.

Microgravity also changes the tumour-cell biology that drugs act on, and improves performance of delivery systems such as nanoparticles and 3D formulations. The effects of microgravity on cancer cells, cancer stem cells, and drug response therefore, could help future therapeutic strategies.

International Space Station (ISS) studies have covered real-space and simulated-microgravity experiments across breast, lung, thyroid, prostate, melanoma, glioblastoma and hematologic cancer models. Cancer cells studied in microgravity and exposed to unique radiation environment of space behave differently than in conventional laboratory systems. These differences reveal mechanisms that are otherwise difficult to understand.

Reviews of real-space and simulated microgravity experiments show effects on cell adhesion, migration, proliferation, gene expression and formation of multicellular spheroids.

On microgravity

Microgravity also changes how tiny drug packages (nanoparticles) form. These particles carry chemotherapy directly into the tumours and release it slowly. Microgravity reorganises cancer-cell shapes, membrane behaviour and gene expression. This alters how cells take up drugs. Remove or reduce gravity, and cells experience major changes in fluid behaviour, mechanical loading and cell-to-cell interaction.

For cancer cells, these changes are not trivial. In microgravity, protein crystals and complex biologics form more slowly and uniformly without gravitational sedimentation. Microgravity, therefore, helps produce drug crystals and biologic formulations that are harder to make on Earth.

Breast & GI cancer in outer space

Breast cancer cells show changes in gene expression, morphology, signal transduction and invasive behaviour under microgravity. In a microgravity environment of space, breast cancer cells generally shift toward a less malignant and less aggressive phenotype. Under normal gravity, breast cancer cells attach strongly to their surrounding matrix using focal adhesions. In space, these adhesion points fail to mature, reducing the cells' ability to crawl, migrate, and metastasize. Key proteins that regulate cell cycle checkpoints, specifically cyclin D1 and cyclin B1, are heavily downregulated, pausing the division process and stopping the rapid colony-forming ability of the tumour. Breast cancer spheroids grown in space are more susceptible to specialised therapies.

Gastrointestinal and colorectal cancer, however, react to microgravity by accelerating their disease trajectory and become more aggressive. Reduced expression of drug-resistance genes, increased DNA/RNA damage markers, and reorganisation of the protein, F-actin, make gastric cancer cells more sensitive to the chemotherapy drug, doxorubicin.

Regulations and investments

In 2025, the United States' Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a subcutaneous form of an immunotherapy drug, pembrolizumab.

The U.S. space agency, NASA, had developed this through protein crystal growth research performed on the ISS, targeting the ADAR1 gene. These crystals were more uniform and better suited to supporting formulation work for this route of delivery.

Similarly, rebecsinib, became the first space-tested cancer drug to enter clinical trials. Following successful ISS-linked testing it received the FDA 'Investigational New Drug' status. Microgravity-grown tumour organoids helped demonstrate antitumor activity strong enough to support further regulatory progression.

These cases show that space-based research is now a legitimate pathway for drug development, not just a novelty.

This year, United Kingdom regulators and the U.K. Space Agency publicly backed the development of a regulatory pathway in outer space.

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), and the Regulatory Innovation Office have streamlined inter-agency bureaucracy. The specific 'dual-regulation' hurdles that previously made space-based pharmacology legally risky for heavy corporate investment were addressed.

This has enabled startups to engineer highly stable, concentrated cancer therapies that patients can self-inject at home instead of hours-long IV infusions. For companies, the costs of setting up a factory are removed; instead they may be able to deploy compact units that operate independently in orbit.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), in spite of a modest $13 billion space economy, is the third- largest space-tech power globally and fifth among major government space agencies. Falling launch costs and new commercial platforms are making space oncology and space pharmaceutical manufacturing more realistic. With successful space startups in India the prices may fall further.

Space manufacturing is no longer about research. The picture is clear: the industry is moving from proof-of-concept to commercial production.

The microgravity pharmaceutical manufacturing market valued at $1.5 billion in 2025 is projected to reach $9.8 billion by 2034. Commercial space stations and nano/microsatellites (CubeSats) are now essential platforms for experiments. Small, frequent launches are becoming viable for pharmaceutical payloads.

What the future holds

Over 700 peer reviewed papers, 40 chapters and 12 monographs have already been published in the area of space oncology. At present, space oncology can be encapsulated by the well known saying: 'A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step.' There is no doubt that humans will exploit outer space in the perpetual quest to solve the cancer conundrum on planet Earth.

(Dr. K. Ganapathy is past president of the Neurological Society of India and the Telemedicine Society of India. A former distinguished visiting professor at IIT, Kanpur he is currently a honorary distinguished professor at IIM, Jammu. drkganapathy@gmail.com)

When it comes to drugs, researchers have found that microgravity changes the cytoskeleton and spheroid formation of cells, which can help hasten drug discovery and also lead to reduced animal testing for drugs. As microgravity also allows for more uniform protein crystals and lower-viscosity biologics, this could help develop more stable formulations.

THE GIST

- Space oncology is a rapidly emerging field, investigating how microgravity and cosmic radiation impact cancer progression and treatment. Space is a natural laboratory for studying cancer biology. Space-based environments are studied to accelerate tumour modelling and drug discovery
- Microgravity changes how tiny drug packages (nanoparticles) form. For cancer cells, these changes are not trivial. In microgravity, protein crystals and complex biologics form more slowly and uniformly without gravitational sedimentation. Microgravity, therefore, helps produce drug crystals and biologic formulations that are harder to make on Earth
- The microgravity pharmaceutical manufacturing market valued at $1.5 billion in 2025 is projected to reach $9.8 billion by 2034. Commercial space stations and nano/microsatellites (CubeSats) are now essential platforms for experiments. Small, frequent launches are becoming viable for pharmaceutical payloads

THE HEALTH QUIZ

July 11 marks World Population Day, a day to revisit the importance of reproductive and maternal health. Here is a quiz to find out how much you know about the topic

Zubeda Hamid

QUESTION 1
This number has been doing the rounds in media reports of late: the replacement level of the total fertility rate.
What is this number?

QUESTION 2
Is the following statement true or false? A woman's eggs increase until she reaches puberty.

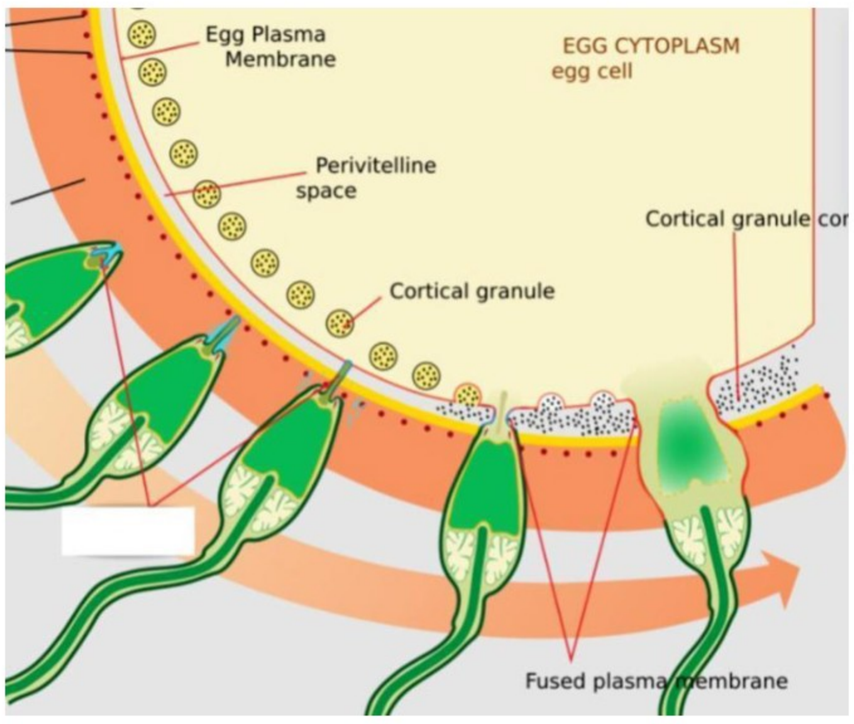
QUESTION 3
The two hormones necessary for the production of sperm are _____ and _____.

QUESTION 4
Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) is a common, but treatable cause of infertility. This condition recently underwent a name change. What is it called now?

QUESTION 5
What is one of the few temporary organs of the human body that forms part of the reproductive health system?

QUESTION 6
The reproductive system contains the largest and smallest human cells. Name them.

Answers to previous edition's quiz:
1. What is the most common type of headache condition? **Ans: Tension-type headache** 2. What is a type of brief, severe, frequently recurring headache, focused on one side of the head or around one eye? **Ans: Cluster headache** 3. Which type of headache ranks third in accounting for overall neurological disease burden as measured by age-standardized disability-adjusted life years? **Ans: Migraine** 4. True or False: Migraines are hereditary **Ans: True** 5. Rebound headache is a commonly-used term for overuse of what? **Ans: Medication** 6. What food is believed to trigger migraine in some people? **Ans: Chocolate** 7. Mucus building up in your _____ can cause a headache **Ans: Sinuses**
Visual: Name the English author. **Ans: Lewis Carrol**
Winners: Viswanathan Neelakantan | Tamil Biswas | B. Sanjeevi



Visual question: What is the name of the vital reaction that a sperm must undergo to successfully fertilise an egg? WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Please send in your answers to health@thehindu.co.in

India's No.1 Dealer
VASANTH & CO

MOBILE & LAPTOPS AT LOWEST PRICE! EASY EMI

UPGRADE YOUR SMART PHONE & LAPTOPS WITH EASY EMI

iPhone 15 128 GB
Price ₹56990
₹2000 Cashback* on credit cards of ICICI Bank AXIS BANK SBI

iPhone 16 128 GB
Price ₹66990
₹2000 Cashback* on credit cards of ICICI Bank AXIS BANK SBI

EMI ₹3473
SAMSUNG Galaxy S26 Ultra (12+256 GB)
Price ₹125000

EMI ₹2021
SAMSUNG A57 (5G)
FREE! 25W Adapter

SAMSUNG A 17 (5G) (6 128 GB)
EMI ₹855

EMI ₹3333
vivo X300 FE (5G) (12+256 GB)
Upto 10% Cashback* (Credit Cards / UPI)

EMI ₹3167
vivo V 70 FE (5G) (8+128 GB)
Smart Watch ₹99 Only

EMI ₹3067
vivo V 70 (5G) (12+256 GB)
Smart Watch ₹99 Only

EMI ₹3334
oppo Find X9s (5G) (12+256 GB)
Sound Box ₹499 Only

EMI ₹2111
oppo F33 Pro (5G) (8+128 GB)
FREE! Smart Watch Air Pods

oppo Reno16 Series (5G)
50MP 3.5x Telephoto Camera
PRE BOOK NOW
Just Pay ₹99 and get Air Pods + Neck Band

Pad 8 128 GB
Price ₹35999

EMI ₹1708
Redmi 15 (5G) (6+128 GB)
FREE! Air Pods

Redmi 15 C (5G) (6+128 GB)
EMI ₹1583

Redmi Note 15 (5G) (8+128 GB)
EMI ₹2208

EMI ₹2583
motorola EDGE 70 Fusion (5G) (8+128 GB)
Vasanth Price ₹29999

MacBook Air (M5) 16 + 512 GB

Price ₹119900
₹9000 Cash Back* ICICI Bank AXIS BANK
EMI ₹4996

AMD RyzenTM 5 / 8GB RAM DDR5 / 512 GB SSD / Win 11 MSO 2024 + 1 yr M365 Basic / FHD 250 Nits / 15.6"
Price ₹51000
EMI ₹3400
FREE! Mouse + Key Board + Bag

Core 3 100U / 8GB RAM DDR5 / 512GB SSD / Win 11 | MSO 2024 + 1 yr M365 Basic / FHD 250 Nits| 15.6"
Price ₹59000
EMI ₹3933
FREE! Mouse + Key Board + Bag

Intel Core i5-1334U (13th Gen) 16 GB DDR4 / Storage 512 GB Integrated Intel UHD Graphics OS / Office Home 2024 + 1-year Microsoft 365 Basic
Price ₹73100
EMI ₹3046
FREE! Mouse + Key Board + Bag

Intel Core 3-1305U (13th Gen) 16 GB DDR4 / Storage 512 GB Intel UHD Graphics OS Windows 11 Home
Price ₹67400
EMI ₹2808
FREE! Mouse + Key Board + Bag

AMD RYZEN 5 150 / 16GB (8*2) DDR4 / 512GB PCIe® 3.0 SSD / 15.6" FHD FingerPrint / Backlit KB | Win 11 Home / OFFICE HOME 2024 (IN)
Price ₹62990
EMI ₹6083
FREE! Mouse + Key Board + Bag

lenovo Intel Core i7-13620H / 16 GB / 512 GB 15.3 / Windows 11 / MSO' 24|
Price ₹70599
EMI ₹2942
FREE! Mouse + Key Board + Bag

lenovo Intel CoreR3-7320U / 8 GB / 512 GB 15.6 / Windows 11 / MSO' 24|
Price ₹57799
EMI ₹6422
FREE! Mouse + Key Board + Bag

AMD RYZEN 3 5400U / 8GB DDR4 / 512GB PCIe® 3.0 SSD / 15.6" FHD FingerPrint / Backlit KB / Win 11 Home / OFFICE HOME 2024 (IN)
Price ₹38500
EMI ₹4278
FREE! Mouse + Key Board + Bag

SAMSUNG Core i5 14 Gen 120U Pro / 16 GB DDR4 / 512 GB SSD / 15.6" FHD Win 11 Home / OFFICE HOME 2021 (IN)
Price ₹84990
EMI ₹3541
₹2000 CASH BACK*

iPad 16 128 GB
Price ₹49900

SAMSUNG A11 Plus
Upto ₹2000 CASH BACK*
Price ₹31999

lenovo Idea Tab 256 GB
Price ₹28999

1 EMI CASH BACK*

- LED TV EMI ₹999 Onwards
- Refrigerator EMI ₹990 Onwards
- Air Conditioner EMI ₹1990 Onwards
- Washing Machine EMI ₹888 Onwards

(select mode)

NO DOWN PAYMENT
TAKE HOME PRODUCTS
BALANCE IN EMI*

(select mode)

Debit / Credit Cards % NO COST EMI
Upto ₹26000 Instant Discount*
HDFC / ICICI / SBI / AXIS / KOTAK / YES BANK / RBL / CITI / AMEX / BOB / INDUSIND / HSBC / STANDARD CHARTERED / FEDERAL / IDFC FIRST BANK

75" QLED Google TV

EMI ₹2828
(139.7 cm)
Price ~~₹99990~~ Vasanth Price ₹79990

65" 4K UHD Smart Google TV
Hands Free Voice Control

(190.5 cm)
EMI ₹3555

55" 4K Ultra HD Smart QD-Mini LED Google TV

(139.7 cm)
EMI ₹3055

40" Full HD Smart TV

(101.6 cm)
EMI ₹1583

Dolby Digital Soundbar (2.1 Channel)

Price ~~₹16990~~ Vasanth Price ₹8690

EMI ₹2626
587 Ltr Side by Side Refrigerator
Price ~~₹104990~~
Upto ₹8000 Cashback

EMI ₹1999
216 Ltr Frost Free Refrigerator
Price ~~₹28990~~
Vasanth Price ₹21990 Onwards

Direct Cool Refrigerator

EMI ₹900
Price ~~₹16990~~
Vasanth Price ₹11990 Onwards

1.5 Ton 5 Star Inverter AC
LG ₹66 Per Day
upto ₹2000 CASHBACK EMI ₹1999

1.5 Ton 3 Star Split AC
DAIKIN ₹77 Per Day
EMI ₹2305

1.5 Ton 3 Star Inverter AC
BLUE STAR ₹80 Per Day
upto ₹2000 CASHBACK EMI ₹2400

AC MELA
EXCHANGE Offer upto ₹4000 (For All AC's)
FREE Standard Installation* (selected brand AC)

1.5 Ton 3 Star Split AC
Haier ₹67 Per Day
upto ₹1000 CASHBACK EMI ₹1994

1.5 Ton 3 Star Inverter AC
VOLTAS ₹99 Per Day
upto ₹1000 CASHBACK EMI ₹2983

1.5 Ton 3 Star Inverter AC
Panasonic ₹67 Per Day
upto ₹3000 CASHBACK EMI ₹1999

7 Kg Top Loading Washing Machine

EMI ₹1166
Price ~~₹16990~~
Vasanth Price ₹12990 Onwards

12 Kg Front Loading Washing Machine

EMI ₹1990
Price ~~₹53990~~
upto ₹7000 CASHBACK*

7 Kg Semi Automatic Washing Machine

Price ~~₹10990~~
Vasanth Price ₹7990 Onwards

Dishwasher

EMI ₹1999

1.5 Ton 3 Star Inverter AC
LLOYD ₹67 Per Day
upto ₹1500 CASHBACK EMI ₹2025

1.5 Ton 5 Star Inverter AC
SAMSUNG ₹67 Per Day
upto ₹2100 CASHBACK EMI ₹1990

Carrier HITACHI GENERAL Godrej Whirlpool IFB ONIDA

All Brand Air Cooler & Fan At Lowest Price

Bajaj Usha Crompton Havells Kenstar Orient Blue Star

*Conditions apply, Offers till stocks last, Images shown are indicative only.

VASANTH CARE Extended Warranty Get upto 5 Years Warranty* Home & Kitchen Appliances Mobile & Laptop

Butterfly 3 Jar Mixie + Iron Box

Price ~~₹6194~~ Vasanth Price ₹2999

Preethi 2 Burner SS Gas Stove + 3 Ltr Pressure Cooker

Price ~~₹7225~~ Vasanth Price ₹3999

Vidiem Wet Grinder + Electric Kettle

Price ~~₹10165~~ Vasanth Price ₹5199

V-GUARD Battery & Inverter

Price ~~₹30860~~ Vasanth Price ₹21499

FURNITURE AT LOWEST PRICE! EASY EMI

Buy 5 Seater / Corner Sofa Take Home a Air Fryer FREE! (Worth ₹6500)

Buy Bero Take Home a Iron Box FREE! (Worth ₹1195)

Buy Dining Table Take Home a Electric Kettle FREE! (Worth ₹1500)

For purchase of Cot ₹25000 and above Take Home a Induction Stove FREE! (Worth ₹3330)

SONY | LG | SAMSUNG | Panasonic | Haier | Whirlpool | Godrej | DAIKIN | BLUE STAR | IFB | Carrier | GENERAL | VOLTAS | MITSUBISHI | LLOYD | LIEBHERR | Preethi | BOSCH | PHILIPS | TOSHIBA | Electrolux | TCL | BAJAJ | Butterfly | Crompton | Vidiem | USHA | HITACHI
ONIDA | FABER | SOWBAGHYA | ULTRA | HAVELLS | PREMIER | EUREKA FORBES | KAFF | KENT | Premier | Prestige | VENUS | THANGAM | dyson | iPhone | vivo | oppo | ONEPLUS | motorola | lenovo | DELL | hp | acer | boAt | JBL | FIRE-BOLTT | noise

Quality Trust SINCE 1978
93335 93335
EXCHANGE OFFER AVAILABLE
For Exchange your Products. Call - 9042899712
www.vasanthandco.in
Scan QR Code to know more offer.

A BG-BGE

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Amount to be given by U.S. to Tanzania under five-year health pact

1.3 in $ billion. The U.S. has signed an MoU with Tanzania to invest more than $1.3 billion in its health sector over the next five years. The agreement, signed late on Wednesday, is similar to those struck with countries including Rwanda, Kenya, and Uganda under U.S. President Donald Trump's 'America First Global Health Strategy'. REUTERS

Official death toll in Ebola virus outbreak in DR Congo

438 The official toll in an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo now exceeds 400, according to official figures released on Thursday. The highly contagious disease has claimed 438 lives, with 1,406 people infected since the outbreak was declared in northeastern Ituri province on May 15, National Institute of Public Health said in its latest report. AFP

Toll in communal clashes in Nigeria's Niger state

48 Communal violence in Nigeria killed at least 48 people on Wednesday, as per a security report. The report, prepared for the United Nations, said "herder militia" raided farmers from Kamuku ethnic group in the town of Tegina in Niger state. The state has already been reeling from violence by jihadists, kidnapping-for-ransom and cattle rustling gangs called bandits. AFP

Amount to be spent by Belgium on NASAMS and skyranger systems

3.1 in € billion. Belgium is planning to buy 10 advanced surface-to-air missile system (NASAMS) launchers from Kongsberg and 20 Skyranger short-range air defence systems from Rheinmetall for a total price of 3.1 billion euros, a Belgian official said on Thursday. The plans could be announced at a NATO summit in Ankara next week, the official said. REUTERS

Fine imposed on *Tagor* tanker by France

1 in € million. The French authorities on Thursday fined the *Tagor* tanker, which they intercepted and impounded at the end of May over its role in shipping Russian oil and gas, €1 million ($1.1 million). The French Ministry of Justice added in a statement that the *Tagor* was now free to leave French waters following the payment of the fine. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu X.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Welfare promises and fiscal constraints

The West Bengal government's strategy relies on higher central transfers and a sharp rise in tax collections; if these projections fail to materialise, both its fiscal targets and political commitments could come under pressure

ECONOMIC NOTES

Subhanil Chowdhury

Riding on a historic mandate, the first BJP government of West Bengal presented its Budget on June 22. The BJP's election manifesto promised to provide ₹3000 per month to women, increase the Dearness Allowance for the State government employees to bridge the gap between the salaries at the Centre and State governments along with other commitments. The first Budget of the BJP government has tried to accommodate these pre-poll promises of the party, while simultaneously trying to reduce the fiscal deficit. The question is whether the expenditure and revenue allocations in the Budget will be able to do justice to the promises made by the government.

The government has budgeted a total expenditure of ₹4,28,557 crore in 2026-27 which is ₹82,083 crore more than the Revised Estimate (RE) of 2025-26. This huge expenditure is accompanied by a reduction in both fiscal deficit (from ₹67,774 crore in RE 2025-26 to ₹62,421 crore in Budget Estimate 2026-27) and revenue deficit (from ₹41,164 crore to ₹21,984 crore). How could the government increase its expenditure substantially, while reducing both the fiscal and revenue deficits? The answer lies in the so called "double engine sarkar".

If we look at the revenue receipts of the government, an increase of ₹75,618 crore is projected in 2026-27, as compared with RE 2025-26. This huge increase in revenue receipts is largely explained by a projected increase of ₹49,324 crore in the Centre's grant-in-aid to the State government, mainly via Centrally Sponsored Schemes. This bonanza of around ₹50,000 crore is the revenue impact of the so called 'double engine sarkar'. The government also projects an increase in the State taxes to the tune of ₹18,933 crore, non-tax revenue to increase by ₹4,508 crore and State's share of central taxes to increase by ₹2,853 crore in 2026-27 as compared with RE 2025-26. While the total increase in revenue receipts is to the tune of ₹75,618 crore, the total increase in revenue expenditure is ₹56,438 crore. This shows that the government is more concerned with closing the deficit than passing the benefit of the windfall to the people. This deficit figure is based on receipt projections which can also go awry. In that case, it may be politically difficult for the government to rein in the deficit and stick to its political promises simultaneously.

Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, State Finance Minister Swapan Dasgupta (right) and BJP MLA Anandamay Barman hold the Budget book at the State Legislative Assembly House, in Kolkata. ANI

The expectation of the government regarding an increase in State taxes amounting to ₹18,933 crore seems difficult to attain. This is because according to the Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement of the government, the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of West Bengal is projected to rise from ₹19,90,896 crore in 2025-26 to ₹21,48,244 crore in 2026-27. This entails a nominal growth rate of only 7.9%. In the year 2025-26, the growth rate of nominal GSDP in Bengal was 9.85%. In other words, the government is projecting a 2 percentage points drop in the nominal GSDP growth of the State but assuming an increase in tax collections of around ₹19,000 crore. Even with 9.85% nominal GSDP growth in the State in 2025-26, the increase in State's tax collection was around ₹13,744 crore as compared with 2024-25. The projected increase in tax collection appears difficult to achieve since the government has not announced any major policy to raise taxes or improve tax compliance. The government may be relying on closing the tax leakage due to corruption. Whatever may be the case, a slowdown in GSDP and a huge increase in tax collection is difficult to materialise simultaneously. Given that it has already committed to a reduction in fiscal and revenue deficits, any shortfall in tax revenue will be met by a cut back on expenditure. This can make the government's political promise to various sections of the people difficult to maintain. On the capital expenditure side, the government is proposing to increase the capital expenditure by around ₹15,000 crore as compared with RE 2025-26. The government has announced a number of infrastructure projects, new colleges and universities in the State. The additional capital expenditure is welcome. However, here too, the government could have spent more if it did not adhere to a policy of cutting back the deficit.

Laxmir Bhandar vs Annapurna Yojana

The Trinamool government's Laxmir Bhandar scheme covered around 2.4 crore women with a monthly transfer of ₹1,500. The BJP had promised to upgrade beneficiaries to the Annapurna Yojana, offering ₹3,000 per month. However, the ₹36,000-crore allocation announced for the scheme would cover only about 1.3 crore women, as announced by the government. The government has not clearly explained the basis for excluding the remaining beneficiaries. It was announced that individuals whose names were removed during the SIR process would not be eligible for benefits under the scheme. In the absence of transparent criteria, crores of women risk losing access to benefits that were promised without such restrictions. However, the number of women who will lose access to the scheme as compared to Laxmi'r Bhandar turns out to be more than a crore. BJP did not announce any targeting of the scheme in their election manifesto.

The government has raised Dearness Allowance by 20%, announced the 7th Pay Commission and promised one lakh new jobs. However, the higher DA will be paid only from October 2026, while DA arrears also remain to be settled. Given these commitments, it is unclear whether the ₹10,000-crore increase in salary and pension allocations will be sufficient.

The government has sought to balance fiscal prudence with its promises of expanded welfare and higher pay for employees. Its strategy relies on higher central transfers and a projected sharp rise in tax collections. If these projections fail to materialise, both its fiscal targets and political commitments could come under pressure. The coming year will test how successfully it can reconcile political promises with fiscal realities.

The author is Professor of Economics, Presidency University, Kolkata.

THE GIST

- The first Budget of the BJP government has tried to accommodate these pre-poll promises of the party, while simultaneously trying to reduce the fiscal deficit.
- The expectation of the government regarding an increase in State taxes amounting to ₹18,933 crore seems difficult to attain.
- On the capital expenditure side, the government is proposing to increase the capital expenditure by around ₹15,000 crore as compared with RE 2025-26

Why is the chargesheet in the Sarla Bhat case a milestone?

The killing of the 27-year-old was among the first targeted attacks on Kashmiri Pandits after the 1989 insurgency; the filing of the chargesheet is seen by her family and the entire community as a step towards justice

Peerzada Ashiq

The story so far:

After a gap of 36 years, the J&K Police's special cell State Investigation Agency (SIA) filed a chargesheet in the killing of Kashmiri Pandit Sarla Bhat, who worked as a nurse at Srinagar's Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS). The chargesheet named Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik among five accused, only two of whom are alive.

The SIA, which started re-investigation in 2020, decided to initiate proclamation proceedings against the absconding terrorist, Khurshid Ahmad Chalkoo, "the man who pulled the trigger".

He is believed to have exfiltrated to Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK). Meanwhile, the SIA chargesheet does not mention any rape.

What is the significance of this case?

The killing of the 27-year-old nurse was among the first cases of targeted killing of Kashmiri Pandits in the valley following the armed insurrection in 1989. According to official listing, the first such killing took place on September 14, 1989 of Pandit Tika Lal Taploo, an advocate and senior BJP leader and then Pandit Neelkanth Ganjoo, a former judge who had sentenced JKLF founder Maqbool Bhat to death in a murder case.

These targeted killings eventually led to mass migration of Kashmiri Pandits outside Kashmir valley. The SIA said Sarla Bhat was abducted from the vicinity of SKIMS on April 18, 1990, subjected to brutal torture and physical assault, and horrendously killed by automatic rifle fire at Omer Colony, Malbagh, Srinagar. The filing of the chargesheet is seen by the family and the entire Pandit community as a step towards justice. The magnitude of the migration, the militant violence triggered, can be gauged from the fact that over 60,452 Pandits registered themselves as migrants by 2014, as the community was displaced to different parts of the country, including Jammu.

Why the delay?

Kashmir witnessed targeted killings of both Muslims, mostly affiliated to the National Conference (NC), and Pandits in the 1990s as hundreds of youths joined militant groups and attacked security forces.

Violence by the JKLF declined after Yasin Malik announced a unilateral ceasefire in 1994. An unwritten understanding with the Union government meant that cases against him were largely not pursued, with a Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act (TADA) court in 2009 keeping proceedings in abeyance in key cases, including the Rawalpora killings and the 1989 kidnapping of Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's daughter. Reopening the Sarla Bhat case, the SIA said the investigation had stalled due to the climate of fear and intimidation during the peak years of militancy, which prevented witnesses from coming forward. It described the case as a symbol of one of Kashmir's darkest chapters of terrorism.

What does it mean for Yasin Malik?

The 59-year-old separatist is currently in the Tihar Jail. He faces sentence on two counts of life imprisonment and five 10-year prison sentences in a terror funding case in 2022. However, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has sought the death penalty in the case. Besides, Malik also faces fresh trials in two other major cases, including the kidnapping and the Indian Air Force attack. His outfit was also banned in 2019 under provisions of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

The JKLF has distanced itself from the murder of Bhat. According to the banned JKLF, Malik on April 8, 1990, just 10 days before the gruesome murder of Bhat, jumped from a five-storey building in Narwara, Srinagar, to evade his arrest during a BSF raid.

The JKLF claimed that Malik suffered a head injury, which caused his facial paralysis, in the incident.

It claimed that the organisation had launched its own investigations into the killing "but could not carry it forward due to the continued raids by security forces on JKLF leadership". The fact remains that it will be the third major case of terror from the 1990s against Malik and he could face the death penalty if the charges are proven in the court.

Why is it tipped as a landmark development by police?

The police's SIA termed the chargesheet as a landmark development and a defining moment in J&K's fight against terrorism. The 737-page chargesheet was compiled after an "exhaustive investigation, bringing together a formidable body of oral, documentary, forensic, ballistic, medical and electronic evidence accumulated over decades and meticulously analysed".

The SIA says the chargesheet marks a historic milestone in the pursuit of justice for victims of terrorism and stands as one of the most significant breakthroughs in the investigation of legacy terror crimes in Jammu and Kashmir. The chargesheet, the SIA said, sends a powerful and unequivocal message that time can never become a shield for terrorism.

Meals remain half-eaten as routine day turns fatal

What began as a routine workday at the quarry ended in tragedy when a massive boulder from 40 feet crashed onto a tractor that was loading crushed stones

Rishita Khanna
TAVAREKERE (BENGALURU SOUTH)

Haunting: The lunch box of workers lying at the stone quarry in Hulukenahalli village in Tavarekere Hobli on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Thursday; family members of the victims grieving outside a hospital, in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Half-eaten meals packed from home lay scattered next to unopened plastic water bottles, while two earthmovers and six drilling machines standing silent were among the first signs that work had come to an abrupt halt at the stone quarry in Hulukenahalli village in Tavarekere Hobli on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Thursday.

Just hours earlier, what had begun as a routine workday ended in tragedy when a massive boulder crashed onto a tractor that was loading crushed stones from about 40 ft distance, killing at least seven workers and injuring five others. The quarry, one of several crusher units spread across this belt on the outskirts of Bengaluru, is usually filled with the sound of drilling, crushing and blasting that can be heard from kilometres away. On Thursday afternoon, it was unusually quiet. The police had sealed the area, while groups of workers stood on a nearby hill, watching officials move in and out of the site. Though they were repeatedly asked to leave, many stayed back.

Most of the workers employed at the quarry are migrant labourers from Yadgir and Raichur in Karnataka, and from Jharkhand, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. According to the workers, around 20 labourers had come for duty in the morning in two adjacent quarry sites. "While a few people were eating at that hour before starting work, a few had already started loading stones when a huge boulder broke loose from one quarry face, rolled down to another section and came crashing down a slope onto the workers below," they described. The workers argued that none of those at the site had been provided basic protective equipment such as helmets or gloves. "Every evening blasting takes place. After that, we gather to load stones and sand. Nobody has a helmet, gloves or any other safety gear," said Laxminarayan, one of the workers.

> Every evening blasting takes place. After that, we gather to load stones and sand. Nobody has a helmet, gloves or any other safety gear
>
> **LAXMINARAYAN**
> A quarry worker

Laxminarayan added that the quarry owner, Udayshankar, had instructed workers not to work there, he said, pointing at a buffer zone, because it was dangerous.

"But our contractor, Ravi, asked us to work there because it was easier and quicker to work in the buffer zone. There (in the buffer zone), rocks were more accessible and more material could be loaded in less time instead of digging elsewhere," he said.

The approach to the quarry was a long way down the slope over and onto an uneven dirt track carved into the hillside. Every vehicle that made its way up left behind a thick trail of dust, reducing visibility. The same route, used all day by workers, remained untouched until officials were told the Chief Minister was expected. Soon afterwards, a water tanker climbed the hill, spraying the entire stretch to settle the dust. However, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar did not show up at the spot.

The workers said they lived nearly 10 km away from the quarry and rushed back after hearing about the accident. Many remained on the hill throughout the day, and said that they would even protest if action was not taken this time.

"We have given several complaints over the years, but nobody has even bothered to visit," the workers lamented.

Man finds father crushed under boulder

Rishita Khanna
TAVEREKERE (BENGALURU SOUTH)

According to the family, Rama Naik had joined his son at the quarry to repay loans taken for the marriages of his two daughters. K. MURALI KUMAR

As Rama Naik began his morning shift at the stone quarry, his son had just finished working the night shift at the same site and was on his way home. Within minutes, he was rushing back after hearing about an accident, only to find his father crushed under a massive boulder.

Naik, who hailed from Yadgir, took up work at the quarry six months ago. He lived in Bengaluru with his wife, son, daughter-in-law and grandson. Before he started working as a driller, he worked as an agricultural labourer in his village.

"I heard about the accident and rushed to the site. When I reached, I found my father crushed under the boulder, and his face was crushed entirely," his son said.

According to the family, Naik had joined his son at the quarry to repay loans taken for the marriages of his two daughters. The work paid slightly more than agricultural labour in his village, and he hoped to clear the debt sooner by earning better wages.

Many workers at the quarry said Naik's story was similar to theirs. Most said they had taken up the "risky work" either because they had loans to repay or because the wages, ₹1,000 per day, was higher than what they could earn elsewhere.

"We were getting ₹1,000 a day. No other work pays us that much for this kind of labour. That's why we came here from Yadgir," said Sharada, a relative of Naik, outside Rajarajeshwari Medical College and Hospital, where family members had gathered after the accident.

The family said they could not understand what had gone wrong, as the workers had been doing the same work under 'similar conditions' every day.

Sharada said most workers at the quarry were below 40 years of age, with many in their 20s and 30s. She added that it was Naik, her mother's brother, who had encouraged her family to move to Bengaluru after telling them that the drilling work paid well.

"He told us there was good money here and that we could save enough for our family's needs, including my marriage," she said.

List of victims

Deceased

- Rama Naik, 48, Yadgir district, Karnataka
- Rajpal Singh, 35, Madhya Pradesh
- Satyanarayan Singh, 31, Madhya Pradesh
- Ramavathar Singh, 31, Madhya Pradesh
- Rajesh Prasad Choudhari, 28, Madhya Pradesh
- Bhuvaneshwar Singh, 38, Madhya Pradesh
- Dharmesh Singh, 28, Chhattisgarh

Injured

- Nehal Singh, 23, Chhattisgarh
- Anand bin Mallikarjun Adapad, 22, Vijayapura district, Karnataka
- Gulab Singh, 27, Madhya Pradesh
- Rajpal Singh, 30, Madhya Pradesh
- Chotulal, 19, Madhya Pradesh

Government will draw up mining guidelines, says Shivakumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar visiting a victim of the stone quarry tragedy, at a private hospital in R.R. Nagar in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The State government will soon convene a meeting to discuss the mining sector and frame a comprehensive guidelines for quarry operations following the stone quarry collapse in Hulukenahalli village in Tavarekere Hobli, on the outskirts of Bengaluru, that claimed seven lives, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said on Thursday.

Speaking to the media after visiting Rajarajeshwari Medical College and Hospital, where the bodies of the deceased have been kept and the injured are undergoing treatment, Mr. Shivakumar said strict action would be taken against those found to have violated safety norms and FIRs would be registered wherever required.

He said the government would examine all reports related to the incident before deciding on further action. "We will check what violations have been committed and take whatever action is required under the law," he said.

Mr. Shivakumar said the government would formulate guidelines to regulate quarry operations and ensure similar incidents do not recur. "In future, quarries will have to function according to these guidelines. We will bring in rules for all quarries so that such incidents do not happen again," he said. The Chief Minister said the State government would provide compensation to the victims' families as per existing norms, and added that the quarry owners had also been directed to provide separate compensation.

Reacting to the incident, Home Minister Priyank Kharge said preliminary findings indicated a possible violation of the buffer zone, which would be investigated further.

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok blamed the State government for the quarry collapse, alleging that State government's negligence had led to the deaths of seven workers. "The bodies were so badly mutilated that they could not be identified," he said, after visiting the hospital. Alleging that illegal quarrying was rampant, Mr. Ashok claimed that quarry licences were being obtained in the names of politicians, and further criticised the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, arguing that it had failed to monitor quarrying activities.

Meanwhile, Union Minister of Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy requested the State government to provide adequate compensation and emergency assistance to the bereaved families.

Mr. Kumaraswamy said the State government should also direct the departments concerned to strictly enforce safety regulations in quarries and ensure constant monitoring.

From Page One

7 dead as boulder collapses at a quarry

The accused have been identified as D. Anandaswamy, Udayashankar, Pandu, Tirupathi, and others responsible for quarry operations at the Basaveshwara and S.R. Udayashankar stone quarries.

The FIR said that the accused knowingly allowed quarrying work to continue in an unsafe environment without taking adequate precautionary measures, resulting in the deaths and injuries. Police said the quarry management had allegedly continued operations despite being aware of the risk of a rockfall and failed to implement mandatory safety measures to protect workers.

Based on the complaint, the police detained four people for questioning, including two quarry managers, a driver, and a site in-charge.

Investigators suspect the collapse was caused by the instability of a massive rock, which slid from 40 feet above, though the exact cause of the slide is yet to be established.

INBRIEF

PGCET: Last chance for correction

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has announced that the last chance for correction of information in the application submitted for PGCET-2026 has been given from July 3 to 6, as per the eligibility of the candidates. "Before modifying the details entered in the application submitted online, the information printed in the application should be carefully checked and then the correction should be made and the reservation details should be checked without fail. It is applicable to those who applied for MBA, MCA, ME, MTech, M.Architecture courses," said H. Prasanna, Executive Director of KEA.

Ultrasound can target oral cancer cells, claims study

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The team found that the ultrasound drastically reduces the cancer cells' ability to migrate and invade surrounding tissue.

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), in collaboration with clinicians at M.S. Ramaiah Medical College and Hospitals have found that oral cancer cells are vulnerable to the moderate mechanical stimulations produced by ultrasound.

The team of researchers worked with patient-derived oral tumour samples that better reflect variations among Indian patients and that oral cancer cells are vulnerable to the moderate mechanical stimulations produced by ultrasound.

According to IISc, this vulnerability appears to arise from reduced levels of Tropomyosin 2.1, a mechanosensory protein that helps body cells sense and withstand physiologically relevant mechanical stimulation. When exposed to ultrasound-driven mechanical stimulation, oral cancer cells underwent selective cell death, while healthy oral epithelial cells remained unharmed.

Novelty of study

"The novelty of this study lies in showing how ultrasound mechanostimulation can selectively target oral cancer cells by exploiting their mechanical weakness. Instead of using heat or drugs, this approach uses moderate mechanical forces to damage cancer cells beyond their ability to recover," said Ajay Tijore, Assistant Professor at the Department of Bioengineering, IISc, and corresponding author.

The team also found that ultrasound drastically reduces the cancer cells' ability to migrate and invade surrounding tissue.

Intriguingly, using a 3D coculture platform that mimics the oral tumour microenvironment, the team found that ultrasound disrupted the dense capsule-like barrier formed by cancer-associated cells around the tumour core. Such barriers prevent drugs and immune cells from reaching the tumour core, resulting in treatment failure.

"What surprised us most was the consistency of the response across cancer cells derived from multiple patients from different cancer stages. They were highly vulnerable to ultrasound, while normal cells were much less affected," said Rashmita Luha, PhD student in the Department of Bioengineering and first author.

IISc said that since ultrasound is non-invasive and already approved for various medical uses, these findings suggest that ultrasound mechanostimulation could exploit the mechanical weakness of oral cancer cells.

It added that with further validation in advanced preclinical models, this approach may help develop safer, more targeted treatment strategies for oral cancer and potentially other easily accessible cancers such as breast and skin cancers.

"The clinical collaboration was very important because it allowed us to work with patient-derived oral tumour samples rather than relying only on standard cell lines developed in Western countries. In the future, we want to test this approach in more physiologically relevant models and explore whether ultrasound can be combined with existing treatments to improve drug penetration and therapeutic outcomes," said Tijore.

CLASSIFIEDS MART
TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 • 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 • 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 • 2335700

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, DHAVAL Kumar Janakkumar Gor, s/o: Janak Kumar Vasudev Gor, r/o:J–501, Purva Venezia, 5th Floor, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka–560064. Have Changed My Name To Dhaval Janakkumar Gor.

I, Shashirekha Anjaneyalu, Daughter of C V Anjaneyalu, Residing at Sri-Gurukrupa, 411, Dome Light Circle, Kolar - 563101, have Changed my Name to Shashirekha C A.

I Arjun S/o Subramonia Vishwanath Pillai R/o #52 Boats Manor Apts, Green Garden Enclave, Banjara Layout, Horamavu B'luru 560043 have changed my name to Arjun Subramonia Pillai for all purposes

I, ROMESH CHAKKUNNY ARICATT S/O CHAKKUNNY ARICATT POULOUSE R/O Prestige Waterford Flat No–57203 Tower–7 ECC Road Bengaluru Karnataka–560066 I have changed the name of my minor Son RITHVIK ROMESH ARICATT to ROY ARICATT aged 14 Years.

I IMMANUEL G resident of flat no. 804 Tower–2 sattva exotic, Bagalur cross, Yelahanka, Bengaluru 560063 have changed my sons name from I JAOSN BENJAMIN to JASON BENJAMIN vide affidavit IN–KA36763997448290Y dated 17/04/2026 before Chief Judicial Magistrate Bengaluru.

I, HAJEERA JALAL W/O SYED ZAFER, Aged about 51 years, Residing at No.28/2, Viviani Road, Richards Town, Bengaluru 560005, have changed my name to HAJEERA JALAL NEELUFER vide affidavit dated 01/07/2026, Sworn Before Notary Meer Hassan, Bengaluru.

I, RAHIMA Khatoon W/o Abdul Rahman residing at No.413, Ground Floor, Linden Street Cross, Yellagunda Palya, Austin Town, Bengaluru-560047 have changed my name to Rahman Batulunnisa Begam vide Affidavit dated 02-07-2026 before Meer Hassan, Notary, Bengaluru.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, TARAPATI Shaiekah Sultana w/o Khaleeq Mehkri residing at No.06, Sunny Side, Benson Road, Benson Town, Bengaluru-560046 have changed my name to Shaiekah Sultana vide Affidavit dated 02-07-2026 before Meer Hassan, Notary, Bengaluru.

I, SHABIN Taj Mohammed W/o Syed Jeelani Basha residing at No.09, P No.3rd Street, Makan Road Cross, Bharathi Nagar, Bengaluru-560001 have changed my name to Shabeen Taj vide Affidavit dated 02-07-2026 before Meer Hassan, Notary, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public is hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase the below mentioned schedule property from Mr. B. R. Prabhudev. If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest, dispute for the above intended sale transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objections/claims/details of dispute/s within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication, failing which, my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owner as if there are no third party claims/objections/disputes in respect of the Schedule Property and thereafter no claims/objections/ disputes will be entertained.
SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of agricultural land bearing Survey No. 71/1 measuring a total of 1 Acre and 37 Guntas situated at Kodiganahalli Village, Manchenahalli Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapur District and bounded on the East - Sy. No. 72 , West – Sy. No. 67/1 and 67/4 , North- Road and South – Sy. No. 70
Adv. Brunda Rao
Manbru Associates
Tel: 9449071612
#65, Pristine Hill View Elitus Euphoria, Tharabanahalli Bengaluru - 562157

LEGAL NOTICE

Hg. 03/08/2026
BEFORE THE HON'BLE XXXI CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, BENGALURU (CCH-14)
O.S. No. 7016 of 2025
BETWEEN : 1. Dr Avinash Parthasarathy, Son of B. Parthsarathy Residing at A3, 601, Sriram Whitehouse Apartment, R T Nagar, Bangalore - 560032. ...Plaintiff
AND : 1. JABM Onesource Pvt. Ltd. & Ors. ...Defendants
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, 1908
To, JABM One Source Pvt. Ltd., Having office at 2nd Main, Nila Investment Layout, Bettadasanapura, Electronic City Phase 1, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560100.
Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking judgment and decree to quit and deliver vacant possession of the schedule property and payment of arrears of rent of Rs. 18,84,276.5/- along with interest at the rate of 18% per annum, and a sum of Rs.44,669/- towards mesne profits along with interest at the rate of 18% per annum. Additionally, the Plaintiff is seeking damages at the rate of Rs. 44,669/- per month along with interest at the rate of 18% per annum from the date of suit until handing over vacant possession of the Schedule Property. You are hereby summoned to appear before the The Hon'ble City Civil and Sessions Judge, Bengaluru (CCH-14), at City Civil Court Bangalore, in person or by pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on 03/08/2026 at 11 AM, take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
3 BHK, Flat bearing number A903, Vaishnavi Nakshatra Apartment, Yeshwanthpur Industrial Area, Phase 1, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560022.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court, this 22nd day of June 2026.
By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate for Plaintiff : Rohan Tigadi
TLaw Chambers, Unit No. 304, "A" Block, St. Patrick's Complex, Brigade Road, Bengaluru - 560 025.

TO BOOK
THANKSGIVING
Advertisements
in
THE HINDU
Contact:
080 - 22071800 / 22864240
080 - 22071826 / 22071827
Rate per advertisement
(3.5 X 5 cms)
Rs. 790/-

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Karl Urban and Laz Alonso as Billy Butcher and Mother's Milk in a still from *The Boys*, a satire of superhero culture.

All the world is a meme: when satire can no longer keep up with reality

From *The Boys* and *Game of Thrones* to *Karuppu* and politics in Tamil Nadu, a culture shaped by fandom, memes and star worship are reshaping how we consume stories, heroes and even reality itself, turning critiques into celebrations of the very myths they were meant to dismantle

Sudhish Kamath

When real world headlines resemble satire, does satire too reinvent itself as drama to appease fans of stars?

Eric Kripke's *The Boys* – the satire on superhero culture – just ended with "one of the good guys" turning evil for literally half a scene. The comics it was based on always headed that way. In fact, the comics eventually force Billy Butcher to confront the logical conclusion of his own crusade. The ending is a lot darker. Google or ChatGPT it at your own risk.

The Seth Rogen produced show glances in the same direction but barely lingers there. In the final episode, Butcher finally admits what had been obvious all along. He was "never going to stop." He felt self-righteous to the point of genocide and had become the person he was fighting.

Pleasing the fans

Given that Karl Urban's Butcher had become such a fan favourite, with his catchphrases and swagger becoming part of the appeal of the show itself, it is hard not to wonder whether modern stories are finding it increasingly difficult to sit with the idea that a much loved character you probably imitate in your head – maybe borrowing his "Oi"s – was always going to be as bad as they come.

A few years ago, in *Game of Thrones*, George R.R. Martin's take on politics as the domain of dynasts was always heading towards a reckoning for one of its most beloved rulers. But by the time the show reached its final seasons, people had named their children Khaleesi.

It also aired when people felt that feminism didn't need this demonisation or further witch hunting.

The challenge of catering to what fans want – during this flaky moment in our complex polarised times – is really messing with the political themes these stories originally set out to capture.

Martin's *Game of Thrones* was fundamentally a story about bloodline power and inherited entitlement. The trajectory was always headed towards a clash between merit and inheritance, democracy and dictatorship, outsiders and dynasts.

The audience simply fell in love with one of the monarchs.

In the first few seasons based on Martin's books, the specifics mattered. Characters took weeks to get to King's Landing. Political decisions had consequences. Once the books ran out, the show became entirely written for television.

lAnd now, geography didn't matter. Characters popped up from one location to another without having to ride for days as they once did.

It was always going to end this way. The lack of detail made the execution weak.

Tamil cinema offers a comparable example. R.J. Balaji started off making a parody with *Karuppu*. At the audio launch, Suriya himself described it as a spoof that would make people think.

But the marketing team had their own plan. The film was promoted more like a supernatural drama about the power of folk deities. More *Kantara* than parody.

People consumed it as a star-as-God mass entertainer while largely ignoring the satire.

R.J. Balaji himself chose to avoid the words spoof or parody in interviews and even put out a letter asking people to offer water to audience members who got possessed by God during the screening.

Diluted themes, altered meanings

I spoke to a filmmaker known for making parodies about this. He believes the filmmaker is in on the joke and is simply doing what is necessary to make sure the film reaches the larger mass audience.

The flip side is that audiences are increasingly diluting themes, altering meanings and changing the politics of stories. Director R.J. Balaji has spoken about how genre need not be consistent – he intentionally didn't want to continue it as a drama and wanted to make a jolly film. He deconstructed the film backwards from what audiences love. He had originally shot a climax that he himself called "average". It was only after watching the crowd response to *Kantara* that he became convinced that that was the route they had to take – the theatrical revelation of the hero in God's form, highlighting his glory through song, dance and action; the founding pillars of mainstream Indian star cinema. The place where audiences enter into a contract of worship the minute they stand for the national anthem at the altar of cinema.

The recent electoral success of C. Joseph Vijay in Tamil Nadu with a historic vote share suggests that this need for a hero may simply be the mood of the nation.

And that brings us back to *The Boys*.

Its final season was packed with parallels to current events: Homelander as Jesus, the "it's not AI, check the fingers" joke and other moments that felt uncannily timely. It was almost as if one of the writers had travelled through time and returned with the month's headlines before the show even aired.

This really is the challenge facing satire today. Truth is stranger. We now live in a culture where memes set news cycles.

If a digital wing can drop 150 memes and clips that travel further than actual reporting, then the meme is no longer commenting on culture.

The meme has become the culture. And like all cultures, it demands its deities.

The star must remain God.

When fandom starts driving politics, religion, entertainment and even the way we consume news, satire finds itself in a strange place.

Why let truth get in the way of a funny story? The joke is no longer on the outside looking in. The system is the joke.

All the world is a meme.

And we just play or get played.

The author is a film critic, filmmaker and screenwriter, most recently a writer on The Family Man Season 3.

Language in conversation

Vaishali R. Venkat

"Genie, you've been off the radar for so long. Where on earth have you been?"

"Oh! Little Moon, I flew back to my roots to let my voice echo through the ballot box."

"You giant Genie! You can't even squeeze your little finger into the box, yet you're bragging about a ballet inside it!"

"Oh! Moon! It's 'ballot,' not ballet. Long ago, people were afraid of whispering their voting choice out loud. So they dropped a secret ball into a box called 'ballotta' in the Venetian dialect of Italian. Over the years, it became the mighty 'ballot,' which means a system of secret voting to pick the leader of your choice."

"Is 'ballot' a noun or a verb, Genie?"

"Both, Moon! In the sentence, 'The villagers dropped their votes into the ballot box,' it's a noun. But in 'The committee decided to ballot its members on Martin's appointment,' it's a verb."

"I get it now. Ugh, I don't like elections a bit. People curse, shout and throw bad words at each other like confetti! It's all noise everywhere."

"My little sunshine! It isn't confetti that decorates the air during a celebration. It's 'mudslinging,' an act of throwing insults or unfair accusations at someone to damage their reputation. It's a noun, Moon. For example: The election campaign was full of 'mudslinging.'"

Little Moon scrunched her face. "Ha Ha! Genie, if enough mud gets splashed on a person, people would probably shut their doors on them forever."

"You naughty little Moon! You crack jokes that once someone's smeared with enough mud, nobody would welcome them anymore; in real life, secretly shutting someone out like that is called 'blackballing.'"

"OMG! Another little ball has bounced into elections now! What do you mean by that, Genie?"

"Ah, little Moon! 'Blackballing' means voting against allowing someone into a group or organisation. Long ago, secret clubs used tiny balls for voting. A white ball welcomed a candidate in, but even a single black ball could reject them completely. That's why secretly shutting someone out is called 'blackballing'. And Moon, it acts both as a noun and a verb. For instance, Blackballing was common in old secret clubs. It's a noun here. When you say, "They are blackballing the new candidate," it's a verb."

"Oh no, Genie! Do grown-ups ever play fair in elections?"

Genie scratched his beard. "Well... some do, Little Moon. But others try very sneaky tricks to win. For instance, sometimes people even redraw the voting maps so that their favourite side gets more seats. That twisty trick is called 'gerrymandering'."

"Gerry... what?" Moon blinked.

"Moon, some election maps get twisted and stretched like chewing gum in a child's hands. 'Gerrymandering' is when people in power change the borders of voting areas so that more people inside them will vote for their favourite party and help them win the election."

"How do we use it in sentence?"

"As a noun: The opposition accuses the ruling party of 'gerrymandering'. As a verb: The leaders try to 'gerrymander' the voting districts."

"Long live messy elections, Genie. At least I don't have to see my class teacher for one whole day!"

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On this day, in 1908, Bal Gangadhar Tilak was arrested by the British government on charges of sedition. A quiz on the colonial-era law

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1

This newspaper opposed the Age of Consent Act, passed in 1891 after the death of a child bride Phoolmani, resulting in the first sedition trial under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code. Name the newspaper.

QUESTION 2

This lawyer successfully defended Tilak in his 1916 sedition case. Once celebrated as an ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity, he later became a leading proponent of the two-nation theory. Name him.

QUESTION 3

This lawyer, charged under sedition, famously said, "Affection [towards the government] could not be manufactured". Who was he?

QUESTION 4

This person was arrested on October 31, 1984 for allegedly shouting pro-Khalistan slogans near Neelam cinema in Chandigarh. In his case, the Supreme Court famously ruled that merely shouting slogans, without incitement to violence or public disorder, does not amount to sedition. Name him.

QUESTION 5

Which famous leader, who is almost always in the news these days, termed the sedition law "highly objectionable and obnoxious", adding that it should have "no place both for practical and historical reasons"?

Visual question: Name this cartoonist who was charged with sedition a few years ago.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. Who holds the record of having scored the fastest goal in World Cup history? **Ans: Hakan Sukur, Turkey – in 11 seconds vs South Korea in 2002**
2. Who is the oldest player in World Cup history to win a tournament? **Ans: Dino Zoff, Italy – 40 years**
3. What are the official mascots for the 2026 World Cup edition? **Ans: Maple™ the Moose (Canada), Zayu™ the Jaguar (Mexico), and Clutch™ the Bald Eagle (USA)**
4. Which is the only African nation to qualify for the semi-final of a World Cup so far? **Ans: Morocco in 2022**
5. Which spectator phenomenon started in the 1986 World Cup edition for the first time is now popularised by audiences watching other sports too? **Ans: Mexican Wave**
6. Visual: Name this player who scored the first-ever Golden Goal in the Football World Cup history? **Ans: Laurent Blanc of France versus Paraguay in a last 16 match of the 1998 edition**

Early Birds

Tito Shiladitya | Pulkit Sathe | Suchit Narottam | Jose Jogi | Varghese Joseph

Word of the day

Gainsay: take exception to

Synonyms: contradict, deny, dispute

Usage: *It is impossible to gainsay the importance of a good education in today's job market.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/gainsay

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈgeɪnˌseɪ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Street vendors will be accommodated in notified vending zones, says Shivakumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday said that street vendors being removed from major roads as part of the 'Safe Footpath' campaign would be accommodated in notified vending zones.

"I had discussed the issue with legislators from Opposition parties when I was the Deputy Chief Minister. They had also agreed, and this is a decision based on consensus. Footpaths are important for pedestrians too. There is a Supreme Court ruling on the issue as well," he said.

Assuring that the interests of the vendors would be taken care of, he said that about 37,000 vendors had applied for vendor carts and about 60,000 persons had applied for vending machines. "We need about ₹50 crore to ₹60 crore. We have the money. Subsidies will also be extended to the needy."

On Day two, the drive continued to target shops, pushcarts, temporary sheds, etc. in the city. K. MURALI KUMAR

As the citywide footpath clearance drive entered its second day, Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda maintained that the exercise is not aimed at evicting street vendors but at relocating them from arterial and sub-arterial roads to ward roads where they can continue their business.

On Day 2, the drive continued to target shops, pushcarts, temporary sheds, advertisement boards, ramps, construction debris and obstructions occupying pedestrian space.

The East City Corporation cleared 8.8 km of footpaths, while the Central City Corporation removed encroachments along 8.55 km of footpaths covering 11 roads. The Bengaluru North City Corporation cleared another 12.7 km of footpaths, removing 25 shops, 124 pushcarts, 59 canopies, 130 unauthorised advertisement boards, four temporary structures, besides 18 tonnes of debris and waste.

Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda directed officials to launch a citywide drive from July 10 to remove abandoned vehicles parked on roadsides, in coordination with the traffic police. This will be followed by a campaign after July 15 to clear construction debris and overgrown vegetation.

Three fans of Darshan held for threatening witness

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kamakshipalya police have arrested three persons for allegedly threatening a prosecution witness in the high-profile Renukaswamy murder case, in which Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa is a key accused. The arrested are Puneeth, Suhas and Venu. Puneeth is himself a prosecution witness in the case. The police said Puneeth owns the SUV that was allegedly used to transport Renukaswamy's body from a shed in R.R. Nagar to a stormwater drain at Kamakshipalya. After the vehicle was seized during the investigation, Puneeth was cited as a witness by the police. According to the police sources, Puneeth manages a fan page of actor Darshan called 'D Company' on Facebook. Suhas and Venu are members of the actor's fan association in Tumakuru.

The trio is accused of threatening a prosecution witness in the murder case through a WhatsApp call and allegedly pressuring him not to depose in court. During a recent hearing, the witness informed the court about the alleged threats. Taking serious note of the complaint, the court directed the police to initiate legal action and ensure adequate protection for prosecution witnesses.

SBI Operations Support
Partner for Optimal Operations
SBOSS, 2nd Floor, Madhuli Building, Shiv Sagar Estate,
Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai - 400018.
E-mail: support@sboss.net.in **Website:** https://sboss.net.in.

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

REF NO: SBOSS/RFP/PPSC/2026-27/009
Applications are invited by State Bank Operations Support Services Pvt. Ltd. (SBOSS) from eligible applicants for Empanelment to provide manpower resources (Collection Agents). Detailed RFP is available on **https://sboss.net.in/CorporateGovernance/Notice**. Last date and time for submission of proposal is **23.07.2026, 17:00 Hrs.**

Place: Mumbai
Date: 02.07.2026
Chief Operating Officer,
SBOSS

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, KOCHI BENCH
CP(CAA)/3/(KOB)2026
In
CA(CAA)/2/KOB/2026
In the matter of Scheme of Amalgamation between

AESTHETIC GOLD ORNAMENTS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U36911KL2009PTC024370 Transferor Company No.1	MALABAR COLLECTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED, CIN: U51398KL2003PTC016458 Transferor Company No.14	MALABAR ORNAMENTS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U51398KL2003PTC016237 Transferor Company No.27	PROSPER JEWEL ARCADE PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U47733KL2024PTC090980 Transferor Company No.40
AL-AHALI BUSINESS TRADE LINKS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U36911KL1997PTC011338 Transferor Company No.2	MALABAR CREATIONS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U51398KL2004PTC017157 Transferor Company No.15	MALABAR PACKAGING PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U74999KL2021PTC072010 Transferor Company No.28	RICHES JEWEL ARCADE PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U47733KL2024PTC089169 Transferor Company No.41
BLAZE GOLD JEWELS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U36911KL2009PTC024369 Transferor Company No.3	MALABAR CRYSTALS AND DIAMONDS PRIVATE LIMITED, CIN: U52393KL2006PTC019273 Transferor Company No.16	MALABAR PRECIOUS JEWELS (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U52393KL2006PTC019223 Transferor Company No.29	SHEEN GOLDEN JEWELS (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U36911KL2009PTC024368 Transferor Company No.42
BLOSSOM GOLD COLLECTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U52393KL2009PTC024506; Transferor Company No.4	MALABAR DAZZLE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED CIN:U52393KL2007PTC020264 Transferor Company No.17	MALABAR RETNA MAHAL PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U52393KL2006PTC019295 Transferor Company No.30	SPARKLE GOLD RETAIL VENTURES LIMITED CIN: U47733KL2025PLC096457 Transferor Company No.43
ECOMATE PACKAGING PRIVATE LIMITED, CIN: U82920KL2024PTC090890 Transferor Company No.5	MALABAR DIAMOND GALLERY PRIVATE LIMITED CIN:U52393KL2006PTC019952 Transferor Company No.18	MALABAR ROYAL DESIGNS (HYDERABAD) PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U52393KL2005PTC018793 Transferor Company No.31	SPLENDOUR GOLD COLLETIONS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U47733KL2024PTC091224 Transferor Company No.44
EMERALD GOLD SOUK (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED, CIN: U52393KL2009PTC023863 Transferor Company No.6	MALABAR EQUIPMENTS AND GENERAL TRADERS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN:U52599KL2006PTC020129 Transferor Company No.19	MALABAR RUBY PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U52393KL2007PTC020142 Transferor Company No.32	SWARNA KAMAL JEWELS (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U52393KL2008PTC022562 Transferor Company No.45
EMINENT JEWEL ARCADE PRIVATE LIMITED, CIN: U51398KL2010PTC026078 Transferor Company No.7	MALABAR GOLD JEWELS (TIRUR) PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U52393KL2005PTC018333 Transferor Company No.20	MBMG DIAMONDS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U36911KL2008PTC022587 Transferor Company No.33	THAS DISPLAYS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U23933KL2024PTC090845 Transferor Company No.46
FORT- IN INFRAGOLD COLLECTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U47733KL2024PTC089168. Transferor Company No.8	MALABAR GOLD PALACE PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U52393KL2005PTC018265; Transferor Company No.21	MG PRECIOUS STONE TRADING VENTURES PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U51398KL2008PTC022577 Transferor Company No.34	TN THANGAMAALIGAI PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U47733KL2024PTC089208 Transferor Company No.47
GEHANA GOLD PALACE PRIVATE LIMITED, CIN: U51398KL2007PTC020985 Transferor Company No.9	MALABAR GOLD SUPER MARKET (KANNUR) PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U36911KL2005PTC018335 Transferor Company No.22	MGD HOLDINGS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U51909KL2012PTC030985 Transferor Company No.35	TRAVANCORE GOLD INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U52393KL2008PTC022607 Transferor Company No.48
GLISTEN GOLD COLLECTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U52393KL2008PTC022635 Transferor Company No.10	MALABAR INTERNATIONAL GOLD DESIGNS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U52393KL2006PTC019222 Transferor Company No.23	NORTHERN GOLD COLLECTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U47733KL2024PTC089167 Transferor Company No.36	UNIFY RETAIL VENTURES LIMITED CIN: U46498KL2025PLC092747 Transferor Company No.49
LUSTER GOLD PALACE (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED, CIN: U52393KL2007PTC021369 Transferor Company No.11	MALABAR JEWELS AND GEMS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U51398KL2003PTC016082 Transferor Company No.24	PALATIAL GOLD ORNAMENTS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U51398KL2010PTC025426 Transferor Company No.37	UNITY JEWEL ARCADE PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U51398KL2010PTC026164 Transferor Company No.50
MALABAR BUSINESS CENTRE PRIVATE LIMITED, CIN: U70101KL1958PTC001812 Transferor Company No.12	MALABAR KODUNGALLUR SONA BAZAR PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U52393KL2007PTC020906 Transferor Company No.25	PATINA GOLD ORNAMENTS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U52393KL2008PTC022493 Transferor Company No.38	VAJRA CREATIONS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U52393KL2007PTC021037 Transferor Company No.51
MALABAR COCHIN ARCADE PRIVATE LIMITED, CIN: U45202KL2007PTC020490 Transferor Company No.13	MALABAR MANGALORE ARCADE PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U45202KL2005PTC018334; Transferor Company No.26	PROMINENT JEWEL ARCADE PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U51398KL2010PTC026091 Transferor Company No.39	

(HEREINAFTER COLLECTIVELY REFERRED AS "TRANSFEROR COMPANIES")
AND

MALABAR GOLD AND DIAMONDS LIMITED
(formerly known as MALABAR GOLD LIMITED)
CIN: U52393KL2001PLC014804 - Transferee Company
All the aforesaid Transferor Companies and Transferee Company
Having its registered office at 16/501 M, Montana Estate, Paingottupuram, Peringolam (PO), Kozhikode, Kerala – 673571,
Represented by its Authorised Signatory Mr. Rajeevan Nair (Company Secretary) Ph:8714585916; Email: rajeevan.nair@malabargroup.com

AND
THEIR RESPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS AND CREDITORS
(hereinafter referred to as Petitioner Companies collectively)
Notice of Hearing of Petition
(Under Rule 16 of the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016)

NOTICE is hereby given that a Joint Company Petition No. CP(CAA)/3/(KOB)2026 under Section 232 read with Section 230 of the Companies Act,2013 read with Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016, was presented before the National Company Law Tribunal, Kochi Bench ("Hon'ble NCLT") praying for sanctioning the Scheme of Amalgamation of 51 Transferor Companies with the Transferee Company and their respective shareholders and creditors on 15th June 2026. Vide Order dated 15th June 2026 read with order dated 23rd June 2026, the Hon'ble NCLT was pleased to fix Wednesday, the 22nd day of July 2026 for hearing the Joint Company Petition. Notice in Form CAA.03 along with the Scheme and all other requisite documents have already been shared with all the applicable statutory authorities by the respective Petitioner Companies.

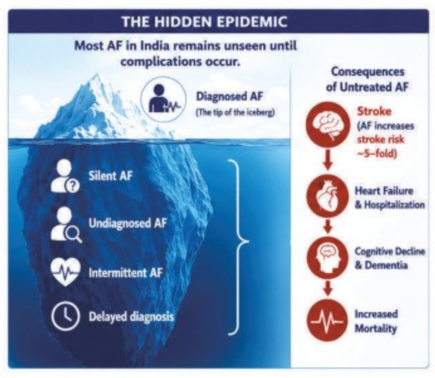
Any person desirous of opposing the said Joint Company Petition should send their representations to the Petitioner Companies' Authorised Representatives, KSR & Co Company Secretaries LLP at 101, Indus Chambers, Govt. Arts College Road, Coimbatore – 641018 and to legal@ksrandco.in and to the registered office address of the Petitioner Companies given above and to corporateaffairs@malabargroup.com by way of a notice, signed by him/her or his/her advocate, with his/her address, so as to reach the Petitioner Companies' Authorised Representative on or before the date fixed for hearing of the Joint Company Petition along with the grounds of opposition and a copy of his/her affidavit along with such notice. A copy of the representation should also be sent to the Hon'ble NCLT at Company Law Bhawan, BMC Road, Thrikkakara - (PO), Kakkanand, Kochi, Kerela - 682021.

A copy of the aforementioned Joint Company Petition with all the annexures will be furnished by the Petitioner Companies' Authorised Representative on the payment of actual charges thereof.

For the Petitioner Companies
Sd/-
Rajeevan Nair
Authorised Signatory
Place: Kozhikode
Date: 03rd July, 2026

ADVERTISEMENT

Atrial Fibrillation: India's New Silent Cardiovascular Challenge



Dr. Dhanunjaya Lakkireddy
Executive Medical Director, Kansas City Heart Rhythm Institute, and President-Elect, Heart Rhythm Society

As a physician trained in India and now practicing globally, I have witnessed extraordinary progress in cardiovascular care. Yet one major threat remains underrecognized across India - Atrial Fibrillation (AFib).

AFib is the most common sustained arrhythmia worldwide and a major driver of stroke, heart failure, and healthcare burden. In India, the disease is evolving. As rheumatic heart disease has declined, AFib has not. Instead, non-valvular AFib is rising, driven by aging and increasing rates of hypertension, diabetes, obesity, and coronary artery disease.

We are only seeing the tip of the iceberg. Many patients remain undiagnosed until they present with stroke or heart failure. AFib can remain silent for years, and symptoms are often dismissed. In contrast to coronary artery disease, where awareness and infrastructure support early intervention, AFib has not received the same urgency.

The consequences are significant. AFib increases stroke risk five-fold and is associated with disability, mortality, heart failure, and cognitive decline. It is not simply an electrical disorder of the heart. It is a systemic disease.

Despite this, treatment and optimal AF care remain inadequate. Barriers include:

01 **Limited awareness** among patients	02 **Delayed diagnosis** and late referrals	03 **Variable use of anticoagulation** despite stroke risk	04 **Dependence on amiodarone** with long term toxicities
05 **Limited Electrophysiology workforce** and training	06 **Geographic disparities** aand limited access outside metros	07 **Reimbursement limitations** and financial barriers	08 **Low penetration** of catheter ablation therapy

We now have an opportunity to change this. The introduction of pulsed field ablation (PFA) in India represents a meaningful advance. It is one of the most important developments in cardiac electrophysiology, using controlled electrical energy to selectively target cardiac tissue while minimizing collateral damage. PFA – especially when integrated with 3D mapping and minimal fluoroscopy workflows – can help standardize procedures, improve safety, and reduce variability, enabling wider adoption of AFib ablation beyond specialized centers.

Recognizing this potential, I have focused my efforts on advancing AFib care in India over several years, working with leading institutions and electrophysiologists to build expertise, expand training, and develop programs and regional centers of excellence. But this is only a beginning.

Addressing AFib will require coordinated action. Earlier detection, greater awareness, improved access to evidence-based therapies, expanded electrophysiology capacity, and modernized reimbursement are essential. We must also accelerate adoption of technologies such as PFA that can safely scale care.

Most importantly, we must stop viewing AFib as a benign condition and recognize it for what it is. A major public health challenge.

India has overcome healthcare barriers before. The tools, expertise, and evidence already exist. What matters now is collective action.

The future of cardiovascular health depends on it.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed by the Surgeon is based on his independent professional judgement. The information provided is for general awareness only and not intended to be relied upon as medical or other advice. Please consult your respective Doctor for any medical advice.

July power bill to be based on 3-month average usage

Since all meter readers across the State have been assigned the task of verifying Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries before August 31, they don't have sufficient time to generate this month's bills, says official

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

Any difference in the number of units consumed will be adjusted in the bill of August. FILE PHOTO

As meter readers across the State are busy completing the verification of Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries beginning from July 1, next month's electricity bill that the consumers will receive will be calculated on the average usage of units in the past three months.

A senior official from Bescom said, "Since all the meter readers across the State and in Bengaluru have been assigned the task of verifying Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries before August 31, they don't have sufficient time to generate bills this month. Therefore, the average usage of units in the past three months will be considered and based on that a bill will be generated for July."

He added, "This is applicable only for domestic consumers and not to the commercial users like hotels, industries and more. Any difference in the number of units will be adjusted in the bill of August. In case if it shows excess units used by the consumer, then they have to pay it in the month of August. If it is lesser than 200 units, then it will reflect zero amount to be paid."

The official stressed that the meter readers have to try to complete the process before August 31.

When asked whether the verification would continue even after the August deadline as there are lakhs of beneficiaries, he said, "There is no instruction on what will be done if the exercise is not completed before the deadline. The average units bill is applicable only for July month."

As per the officials of different sub-divisions, each meter reader has to complete verification of at least 50 houses in one day.

The Energy Department has instructed all the meter readers to visit the houses at least three times in case of their absence at home.

The same is applicable for tenants.

Verification: People worried about losing Gruha Jyothi benefits

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

The door-to-door verification of Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries and the documents being asked of them, has left many people in confusion and fear of losing the benefits of free electricity upto 200 units.

As per the press release issued by the Energy Department, consumers have been asked to provide Aadhaar, Voter ID, PAN card, tenancy or rental agreement, caste certificate and ration card details during this verification process.

Questions have been raised as to why caste certificate, ration cards and PAN cards are being sought, when the Gruha Jyothi scheme is a universal scheme with no exclusions but for their electricity consumption. Earlier, Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar had also said that non-voters of Karnataka will be removed from the beneficiaries list of Gruha Jyothi guarantee scheme. Therefore, entering the voter ID details will help the department identify the voters and non-voters.

BESCOM staff verify details of Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

However, asking for PAN card details from beneficiaries have led to suspicion if professionals who are tax payers will be eliminated from Gruha Jyothi 2.0 list. A beneficiary residing in R.T. Nagar, said, "When the scheme was launched, the government asked for electricity bill and Aadhaar card. Now that they are entering the PAN card details, the government can easily track if the beneficiary is a tax payer and eliminate them." Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly R. Ashok took to social media platform X and alleged that the government seeking copies of PAN card and caste certificate indicated it wanted to exclude many from the benefits of Gruha Jyothi scheme, which was marketed as a universal scheme before polls. "Voter ID and Aadhaar card is more than enough to identify whether a beneficiary was a voter in the State or not. Why does the government need caste certificate and PAN cards?," he asked.

A senior official at Bescom, said, "At present, all the Escoms are only collecting all the data related to beneficiaries of Gruha Jyothi. The government will take a call on whoever is eligible or not eligible to take them out of the list."

In the past two days, 85,331 residences have been surveyed across the State.

Gruha Jyothi 2.0: Glitches on app raise concerns of validity and accuracy

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

The Gruha Jyothi 2.0 mobile application, released by the Energy Department in Karnataka for the verification of Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries, is found to be having a lot of technical glitches.

According to meter readers carrying out the field verification in Bengaluru, the app is accepting any photo when uploaded in place of uploading the photo of actual documents.

They said that the absence of basic validation features in the app raises concerns about the accuracy and credibility of the ongoing beneficiary verification process.

Incorrect uploads

A meter reader from Malleswaram said that the application fails to validate uploaded documents. "Even if we upload the photo of a blank sheet of paper instead of a tenant's document or rental agreement, the app accepts it. Most mobile applications reject incorrect or invalid uploads, but this app doesn't. It should be able to identify whether the uploaded document is valid and prompt the user to upload the correct one," he said.

According to meter readers, the verification app is accepting any photo when uploaded in place of uploading the photo of actual documents. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Another meter reader from Ganganagar pointed out that the app also lacks proper verification of beneficiary photographs. "After entering all the required details, the app asks for the beneficiary's passport-size photograph. Yesterday, while verifying a woman beneficiary, I uploaded her father's photo in her absence, and the app accepted it without any objection. I deleted it and uploaded the passport size photo of a woman beneficiary. The application should be capable of identifying such mismatches and ensure that the correct beneficiary's photograph is uploaded," he said.

If wrong photos are uploaded in the app, we will pull up respective meter readers, says Bescom official

A meter reader in Munireddy Palya, said, "At the end of capturing all the information on the app, it also asks us to enter the exact location and captures the information from GPS. This is done so that the meter readers don't cheat by uploading it from their home or office. But what is the point if the meter reader captures wrong photos and the app is not alerting them."

The Chief Minister has announced that the scheme will not be provided for non-voters of Karnataka, to check which meter readers are seeking Voter ID cards at the houses they are surveying. However, a meter reader in North Bengaluru said the app is accepting details of non-voters of the State.

"I have entered the details of Aadhaar card and voter id and both these documents have his address of Madhya Pradesh. The app accepted it instead of rejecting when I entered the voter id or EPIC number along with its photo. What is the point in conducting the door to door exercise when the app cannot reject the non-voters or people from other States being benefitted while they have voting rights in other states?," he said.

They have said the absence of basic validation features in the app raises concerns about the accuracy and credibility of the ongoing beneficiary verification process.

Bomb threat email to ISRO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A hoax bomb threat was emailed to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) headquarters in Bengaluru, claiming explosives were planted at the high-security establishment. After a thorough security check by police and bomb disposal squads, the threat was declared a hoax.

The email was received by the ISRO staff post-lunch. They immediately alerted the police. The police, along with Bomb Detection and Disposal Squads (BDDS), rushed to the spot, and evacuated the campus. A thorough anti-sabotage check did not reveal any explosive material. The Sanjay Nagar police have taken up a case to track down the sender of the email.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JUL. 03	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
RISE 21:28	SET 08:33
SATURDAY, JUL. 04	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
RISE 22:05	SET 09:23
SUNDAY, JUL. 05	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
RISE 22:42	SET 10:11

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	31	20
Bengaluru	31	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Spell of light rain and thundershower will occur.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2026
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Elderly couple duped of ₹3.17 crore in 'digital arrest' fraud

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 74-year-old resident of Jayanagar I Block and his wife have lost ₹3.17 crore to fraudsters posing as police officers and telecom officials in a sophisticated 'digital arrest' cyber fraud that lasted for more than three months. Based on the complaint filed by the victim, the South CEN Crime Police have registered a case on Tuesday and launched an investigation.

According to the complaint, the scam began on March 9, when the couple received a call from a landline number. The callers claimed that the complainant's landline connection would be disconnected within two hours as it had been linked to criminal activities. The callers falsely alleged that the couple's personal details had been used in money laundering, drug trafficking and hawala transactions, and claimed that criminal cases had been registered against them. They then subjected the couple to a "digital arrest", warning them not to disclose the matter to anyone, not to leave their home without permission, and to answer every call immediately.

To "verify" their finances, the fraudsters obtained the couple's banking credentials and directed them to transfer money from multiple bank accounts to various accounts controlled by the accused.

Believing the claims, the couple transferred funds in multiple transactions from accounts held into several beneficiary accounts.

NIMHANS opens India's first public sleep database for stroke patients

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A team of researchers from NIMHANS and the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Hyderabad, has developed the first open-access Asian database of overnight sleep studies in patients with ischemic stroke.

The database, which has been made publicly available, is expected to support research on sleep disorders in stroke survivors and help improve post-stroke care.

The dataset, named iSLEEPS (Polysomnography Dataset for Sleep Analysis in Ischemic Stroke Patients), has been published in the Nature Portfolio journal *Scientific Data*. It comprises 100 overnight polysomnography (PSG) recordings collected at the NIMHANS between September 2018 and December 2021.

Each recording includes manually scored sleep stages, respiratory events, oxygen desaturation episodes, periodic limb movements and clinical information, all annotated, according to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine's 2017 guidelines.

The database, which has been made publicly available, is expected to support research on sleep disorders in stroke survivors and help improve post-stroke care.

To address a major gap

Srijithesh P.R., professor of neurology at NIMHANS and one of the corresponding authors of the study, told *The Hindu* that the project was conceived to address a major gap in sleep medicine research.

"Sleep-disordered breathing is extremely common after ischemic stroke, but researchers have had very limited access to large, well-annotated datasets from stroke patients. Most publicly available sleep databases are from healthy individuals or non-stroke populations. We wanted to create a high-quality resource that researchers across the world can use to answer clinically relevant questions," he said.

Dr. Srijithesh said sleep disturbances are often overlooked despite their impact on neurological recovery.

"Sleep is not merely a period of rest. It plays an important role in brain repair, memory consolidation and functional recovery after stroke. If sleep disorders such as obstructive sleep apnea are not recognised and treated, they can adversely affect rehabilitation and even increase the risk of recurrent stroke," he said.

Sleep-disordered

The study pointed out that between 70% and 80% of stroke patients experience some form of sleep-disordered breathing, while Indian studies have reported similar prevalence among patients with ischemic stroke.

Yet, comprehensive sleep datasets from this population have remained scarce, particularly from Asia.

Existing databases

The study pointed out that existing international databases either include only a small number of patients, rely on single physiological signals such as electrocardiograms, or do not provide detailed annotations of sleep stages and respiratory events. The iSLEEPS database attempts to bridge this gap by providing multimodal sleep recordings from a stroke-specific cohort.

100-patient cohort

The cohort comprised 100 patients aged above 50, including 23 women. Overnight sleep studies recorded brain activity, eye movements, muscle activity, heart rhythm, airflow, oxygen saturation, respiratory effort and body position.

Analysis of the dataset showed that 38% of participants had severe sleep apnea, 23% had moderate sleep apnea and 24% had mild sleep apnea, while only 15% had normal breathing during sleep.

To demonstrate the value of the database, the researchers also evaluated artificial intelligence models for automated sleep-stage classification.

Among the three models tested, the Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) model achieved the highest accuracy of 74.7%, followed by the Transformer model (67.4%) and the Convolutional Neural Network (61.7%).

Sleep physiology

S. Bapi Raju of IIIT Hyderabad, another corresponding author, said the database was intended to advance stroke and sleep research beyond AI applications.

"It can be used to study sleep physiology after stroke, understand disease mechanisms, validate new diagnostic methods and develop better screening tools. Because it is openly available, researchers can build on it instead of starting from scratch," he said.

The anonymised dataset has been made available through open repositories for research and education.

It has already been downloaded by researchers from 20 organisations in nine countries, including China, Belgium, Hong Kong and the United States.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath Chandrasekar (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Protocol violations alleged as SIR exercise enters third day in State

JD(S) says Booth Level Officers of the Ramanagara Town Municipal Council were conducting an SIR camp at a wedding hall instead of undertaking mandatory road-to-road distribution

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Even as the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls entered its third day in Karnataka, allegations of violations of the Election Commission's protocol during the door-to-door enumeration exercise surfaced from different parts of the State.

In one instance, flagged by the Janata Dal (Secular) on its official X handle, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) in Ward No. 23 of the Ramanagara Town Municipal Council were seen conducting what the party described as an SIR camp at a wedding hall instead of undertaking the mandated door-to-door distribution and collection of enumeration forms.

"The Election Commission's rules have been completely thrown to the winds in Ramanagara. Instead of going door-to-door to verify voter information and distribute forms, the BLOs are organising an 'SIR Rally' by gathering every one at a Kalyana Mantapa in Tipu Nagar, Ward No. 23. Is this not an insult to democracy?" the party said in its post, while urging the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, and the Election Commission to initiate action against the officials concerned.

A Booth Level Officer during the Special Intensive Revision exercise at Jayanagar. K. MURALI KUMAR

The party demanded that the Election Commission suspend those responsible for the irregularity and ensure accountability.

JD(S) legal wing president A.P. Ranganath has written to the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka about the "continued violations of SIR procedure and erosion of confidence in electoral officials in Ramanagar."

He also pointed out at instance of house to house enumeration conducted only in the presence of Congress BLAs.

In another incident, a video that went viral on social media purportedly showed a Booth Level Agent (BLA) appointed by the BJP accompanying a BLO during a door-to-door visit.

The video appeared to show the BLA handing over BJP pamphlets to a resident while the BLO was distributing the enumeration form. The resident questioned how election campaigning could take place during the SIR exercise.

When contacted, V. Anbu Kumar, Karnataka's Chief Electoral Officer, said any violation of the Election Commission's protocol should be brought to the notice of the jurisdictional District Election Officer (DEO). "The DEOs have been authorised to inquire into such complaints and take appropriate action," he said.

Forms distributed

Meanwhile, the SIR gathered pace in Karnataka, with 1.12 crore enumeration forms distributed to electors in the first three days of the month-long door-to-door exercise.

According to data released by the CEO, Karnataka, 11,265,893 enumeration forms, accounting for 20.32% of the State's 5,54,32,314 electors, had been distributed as of on July 2 at 6 p.m.

Among the districts, Kalaburagi recorded the highest distribution of enumeration forms at 7.88 lakh, followed by Davangere (6.50 lakh), Koppal (6.19 lakh), Belagavi (5.26 lakh), Tumakuru (5.15 lakh) and Chitradurga (4.99 lakh).

Commenting on reports of instances of enumeration being conducted en masse in kalyan mantaps and community halls, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that it is illegal. "This will not be allowed to to happen. This is ilegal. The BLOs should compulsorily go door to door."

GBA polls: Congress to push for use of 2025 electoral rolls

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With elections to the five corporations in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) likely to be held soon, the Congress may push for the use of the 2025 electoral rolls since the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls – currently under way – is expected to be completed only by October 7, 2026.

The party is also working on preparing multiple manifestos that will address electorate in each of the five corporations.

A view of the Greater Bengaluru Authority building. FILE PHOTO

SC deadline

The Supreme Court has set August 31 as the deadline to complete the GBA election process, even as the official machinery is involved in the SIR process.

The push for the older electoral roll is coming at a time when the State Election Commission conducted a separate door-to-door visit to solve discrepancies in 27 wards across three corporations after political parties raised objections with the final GBA electoral roll that was published on April 18.

Congress sources said the 2025 electoral roll would be sought to be used in the GBA elections in light of the current developments and the Supreme Court set deadline.

Under discussion

While Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president B.K. Hariprasad and Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar are learnt to have discussed the issue on Wednesday, sources in the party said that the Election Commission is set to publish the draft electoral roll only on August 5.

"We are not sure if it can be accepted in the light of the SC-set deadline," sources said.

Child abuse: Police question creche staff

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The HAL police have issued notice to five staff of the creche operating inside IT firm Capgemini, summoning them for questioning about allegations of physical abuse and cruelty towards the children of employees of the company.

The police registered an FIR against workers at the creche, Little Buds Day Care, on June 29.

The police have gathered video clips reportedly showing the alleged abuse and sent them to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for further verification.

The questioning would ascertain the exact role of the staff based on which necessary legal action would be taken, a senior police officer said.

The FIR names caregivers Manjula, Vijayalakshmi, Bhavani, Sindhu and Bindu. They have been booked under Section 351 (2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, based on a complaint filed by Tilakesh Kumar.

According to the complaint, the alleged incidents took place on June 25 at the facility. The complainant alleged that the crèche staff, including the in charge and caregivers, subjected the children to physical and mental abuse.

It noted that the children who cried or created a disturbance were beaten, dragged, handled badly, confined inside a washroom, doused with water, and were allegedly subjected to physical assault.

The complainant stated that videos showing children crying were circulated on WhatsApp, bringing the alleged abuse to light.

On July 1, Capgemini issued a statement announcing full co-operation with the investigators and temporary closure of the on-campus day care facility.

Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said that a special team, led by an officer of the rank of Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), was formed for the probe. "The FIR was registered based on a call to the child helpline. The police have visited the spot and collected CCTV footage from the campus, which is being analysed now," he said.

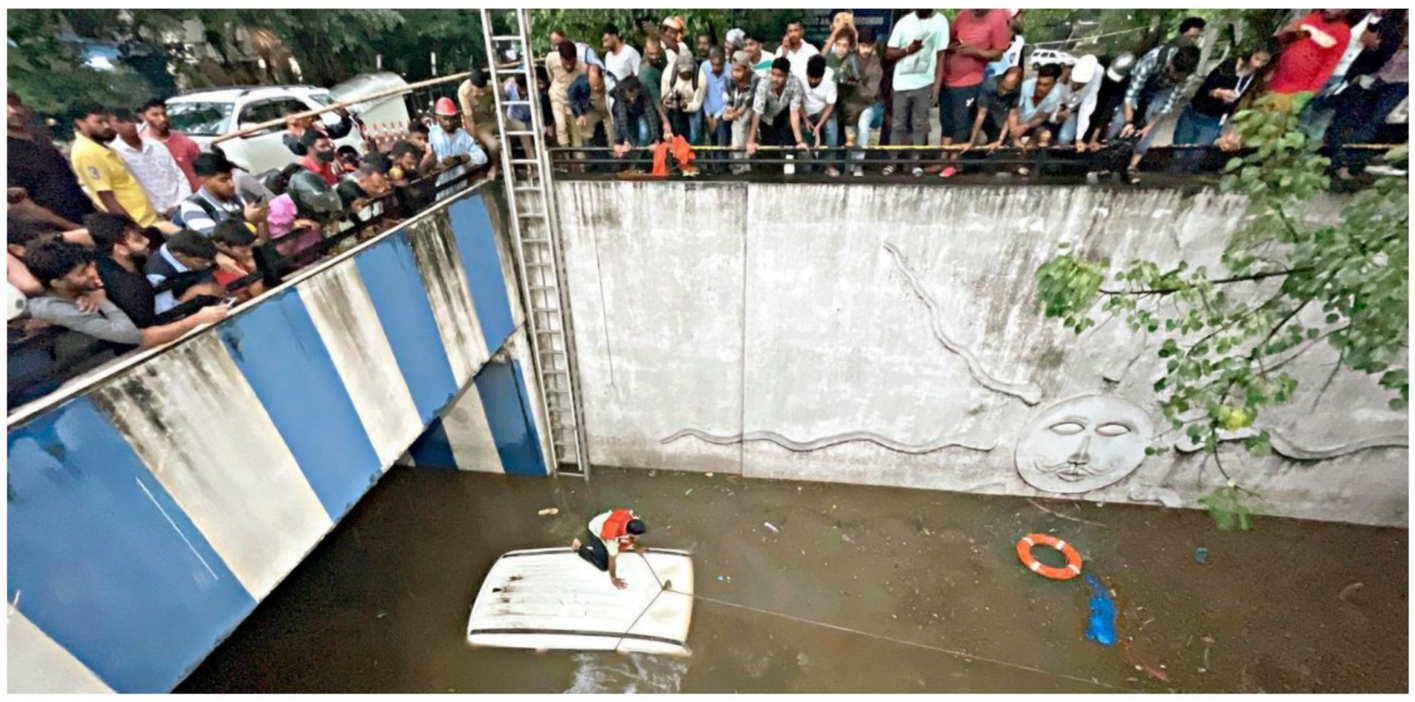
Mr. Singh announced that the police would collect details of all day care centres run by companies in Bengaluru, and ensure all the rules are followed at these centres. "Any violation will be dealt with strictly," he said.

Watery hurdle: People struggling to navigate a road filled with sewage at Hennur. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

When nature falls: A tree that fell on vehicles at Cunningham Road on July 14, 2023. K. MURALI KUMAR

Big branch theory: Hanging branches at R.T. Nagar poses a safety risk. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Not so majestic: A withered tree at Basavanagudi poses a risk to passers-by, especially during heavy rains and wind. SUDHAKARA JAIN



Help from above: Fire and Emergency Services personnel during an operation to save people stuck in a car which got submerged at the flooded K.R. Circle underpass on May 21, 2023. K. MURALI KUMAR

Fatal flaw: A structure for a metro pillar collapsed near HBR Layout, killing a mother and a child on January 10, 2023. K. MURALI KUMAR

Danger lurking all around

For six consecutive years, Bengaluru has recorded the highest number of deaths owing to civic negligence among metropolitan cities. Has much changed on the ground with major administrative overhauls? **Chetan B.C.** explores.

It was around 8 p.m. on July 14, 2023, when tragedy struck 18-year-old Rajashekar K.V. He was walking on Cunningham Road in the heart of the city when a huge peepal tree fell on him, causing severe pelvic injuries that left his lower body immobilised.

Rajashekar had come to Bengaluru from Chickballapur just 20 days earlier to pursue an aviation course, and had begun his training. His father, Venkataravanappa, who is physically challenged, works as a waterman at the panchayat office, while his mother is a daily wage labourer.

Speaking to *The Hindu* three years later, Venkataravanappa said Rajashekar is yet to recover fully and can barely walk 10 metres. He has undergone eight surgeries so far, and one more is likely.

Rajashekar, however, remains optimistic about getting back on his feet and supporting his family within a few years.

The aftermath: The area around Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital has been restricted following the wall collapse. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

He says the pain persists, especially while travelling or trying to walk, but what hurts more is the feeling of betrayal by the now-dissolved Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

The family's combined monthly income is between ₹20,000 and ₹22,000. Rajashekar's medicines cost around ₹2,000 a month. He has to visit the hospital once every month and can travel only by taxi, which costs between ₹5,000 and ₹6,000 for each visit. In addition, the family has to bear consultation expenses.

Choked by concrete

The tree that crashed on Rajashekar had been pruned recently and was reportedly healthy. However, according to sources, its base had been choked by concretisation. The larger concern, however, is that no reactive measure or corrective intervention was planned or initiated, and the incident was treated as a one-off accident.

Tree-fall and branch-snapping incidents have continued across the city, claiming more than five lives since. In 2025 alone, three people died in tree branch-snapping incidents. In a recent case, a 52-year-old man slipped into a coma after a branch snapped and struck his head. He is currently under observation in the intensive care unit (ICU).

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data suggests that Bengaluru has become India's deadliest metropolitan city for deaths arising from civic negligence. For six consecutive years, the city has recorded the highest number of deaths owing to civic body negligence among metropolitan cities. According to the data, Bengaluru recorded 17 such deaths in 2024, 20 in 2023, 21 in 2022, and 31 in 2021.

Although the data shows a declining trend, Bengaluru remains the only metropolitan city to record such deaths consistently year after year. Significantly, people have lost their lives in more than eight different ways linked to civic body negligence.

Civic activists point to a recurring pattern in which such incidents have no meaningful consequences or a concrete plan for corrective action. Most cases have ended with compensation, the suspension of lower-ranking officials, and criminal cases that continue to move at a snail's pace. The broader systemic problem remains, they argue, as civic bodies continue to prioritise short-term responses over addressing the root causes.

> There is no mechanism for officials to visit sites and identify problems that need fixing. It is only when a complaint crops up that the issue is attended to and resolved
>
> **CLEMENT JAYAKUMAR,** Mahadevapura Task Force

Repeated incidents, no changes

Clement Jayakumar of Mahadevapura Task Force, a civic group, points out that despite repeated incidents, the complaint-based working culture continues, suggesting no changes.

"There is no mechanism for officials to visit sites and identify problems that need fixing. It is only when a complaint crops up that the issue is attended to and resolved," Clement noted.

For instance, he explained, civic bodies release data on the number of potholes they have repaired within a specific period and those that are yet to be filled. The figures they rely on come from the Sahaya portal and lists shared by the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP). No proactive on-ground inspection is carried out by field staff. As a result, this complaint-based approach to repairs leaves several hazards on the streets unaddressed, leading to injuries and even deaths.

Murali K., a resident of Rajarajeshwari Nagar, pointed to the failure of civic bodies in understanding the sense of urgency. . "Even when there is an urgent need to prune a tree, there will always be a delay in getting permission. You need to visit their office, fill out a form, and then wait for them to arrive," he said.

Sujith Cariappa, a member of the Social Amenities Association, pointed out the widespread flouting of protocols during infrastructure works. "Safety measures at work sites are mandatory, especially for pedestrians and commuters who pass through these areas. Contractors fail to make proper temporary arrangements to eliminate inconvenience to the public, often leading to injuries," he said.

A senior officer from the Forest wing admitted that safety protocols are often flouted because they require coordination between different departments, which rarely happens. "Contractors are usually in a hurry to finish the work, while clearances and compliances from multiple departments take time. So, they simply write a letter and begin work without waiting for the other stakeholders to do their part," he said.

The officer pointed out that there should be a dedicated online platform with time-bound disposal of requests to facilitate coordination among departments, but no such mechanism exists.

Accountability and the vicious cycle

A volunteer of Whitefield Rising points out that infrastructure failures are often the result of fragmented responsibility. "With multiple agencies working on the same public spaces without adequate coordination or oversight, poor execution compounds over time, creating persistent hazards on our streets," she said.

Clement added that although engineers are assigned responsibility for wards, their job descriptions do not make them accountable for specific works or preventive maintenance. This creates room to shift responsibility in the event of mishaps, often resulting in no action being taken.

Both the volunteer and Clement describe this as a vicious cycle. When a death occurs owing to civic negligence, it is typically followed by an announcement of compensation, the formation of a committee to identify the cause, the suspension of a lower-ranking officer, and departmental enquiries whose findings are rarely made public. Only in a few cases that attract widespread public attention, a criminal case is registered.

Once the committee reports are submitted, their recommendations are implemented, audits are conducted, and surveys continue for a few weeks. These efforts are widely publicised through the media, but as public outrage gradually subsides, so does civic action. They stress that the root causes are never addressed, while quick fixes are prioritised. As a result, no meaningful reforms emerge, leading to the repeated occurrence of the same problems.

A missing law

The Whitefield Rising volunteer stressed that there is no comprehensive civic liability law to fix accountability in cases of damages or injuries caused by civic negligence. Such a law is crucial because accountability is questioned and fixed only in cases of serious negligence, while thousands of incidents causing injuries to citizens go unreported.

The absence of a liability law forces aggrieved citizens to file civil suits seeking compensation if civic bodies or government agencies fail to offer it. However, according to advocates who spoke to *The Hindu*, most citizens do not pursue civil litigation.

Narasimhamurthy, a human rights activist and advocate, explained that the other option is to pursue criminal proceedings, which are unlikely to be initiated even in cases involving serious injuries.

"Government agencies always try to avoid cases by promising compensation, after which people give up. In many instances, those affected belong to vulnerable sections of society, so they are reluctant to file cases and fight prolonged legal battles," he explained.

Narasimhamurthy argued that the compensation offered by government agencies is often inadequate and that pursuing a legal case could result in better compensation for the aggrieved party. However, he added that citizens generally fear taking legal action.

Besides, criminal cases take a long time to be investigated. In 2023, Bathula Bhanu Rekha, a 23-year-old techie from Andhra Pradesh, drowned in the flooded K.R. Circle underpass in central Bengaluru. A senior police officer told *The Hindu* that the chargesheet was filed only at the beginning of 2025, two years later, as investigators had to wait a long time for prosecution sanction. Ironically, the same underpass was completely flooded again last month.

Problems continue on the ground

Meanwhile, the reality on the ground remains the same. State Highway 35 between Varthur and Sarjapur has been undergoing road widening for the past year. A visit to the stretch revealed numerous hazards, including dug-up roads, broken footpaths, mounds of mud, and snapped cables.

Similarly, stretches such as Srinivagilu Road and Hennur-Bagalur Road, where white-topping works are under way, remain in poor condition, with construction equipment left unattended and drainage slabs removed, creating conditions that could potentially lead to tragedy.

Audits and surveys intended to identify long-term solutions have shown little progress. The tree census has been under way for the past six years but is yet to be completed. More recently, a proposal for scientific tree management was prepared, but the file continues to gather dust as the final decision is still pending.

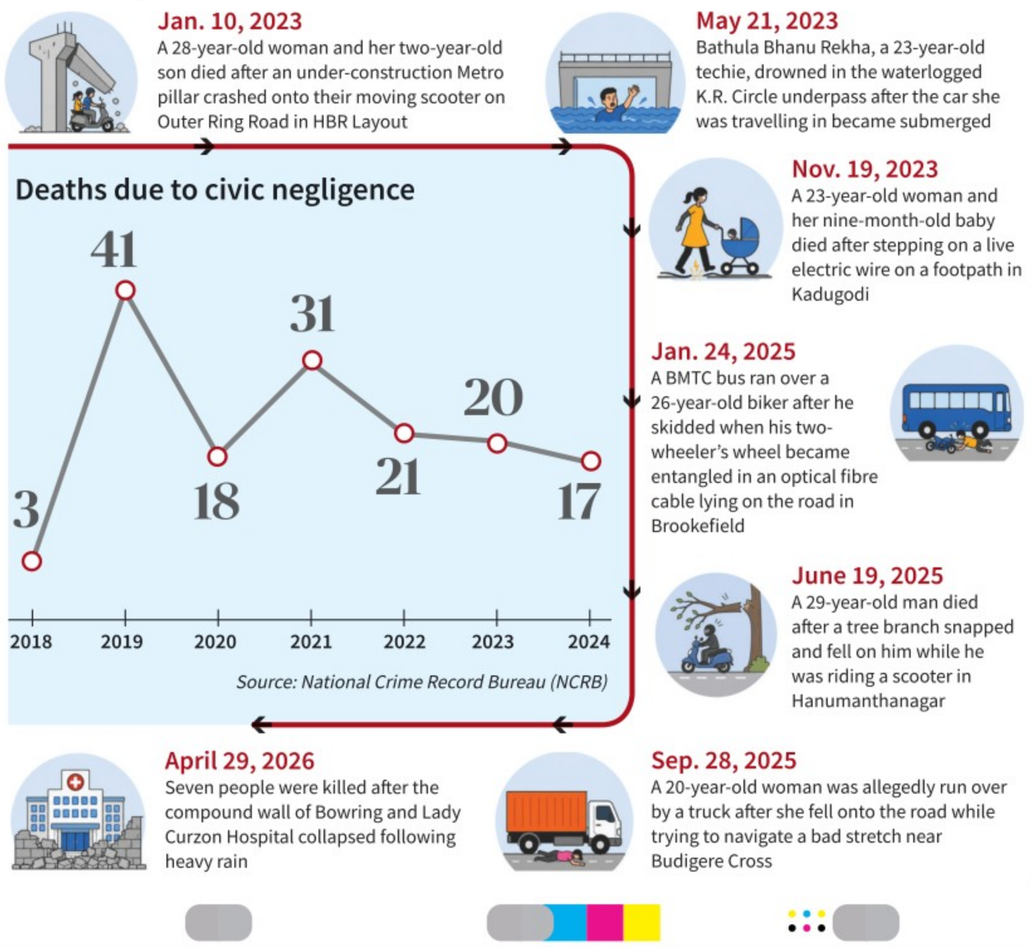
Accident blackspots, which arise from engineering defects, require coordinated action by multiple agencies. In 2023, Bengaluru had 60 identified blackspots. According to the latest report, the number has increased to 63. While three blackspots were rectified over the past two years, six new ones were added during the same period.

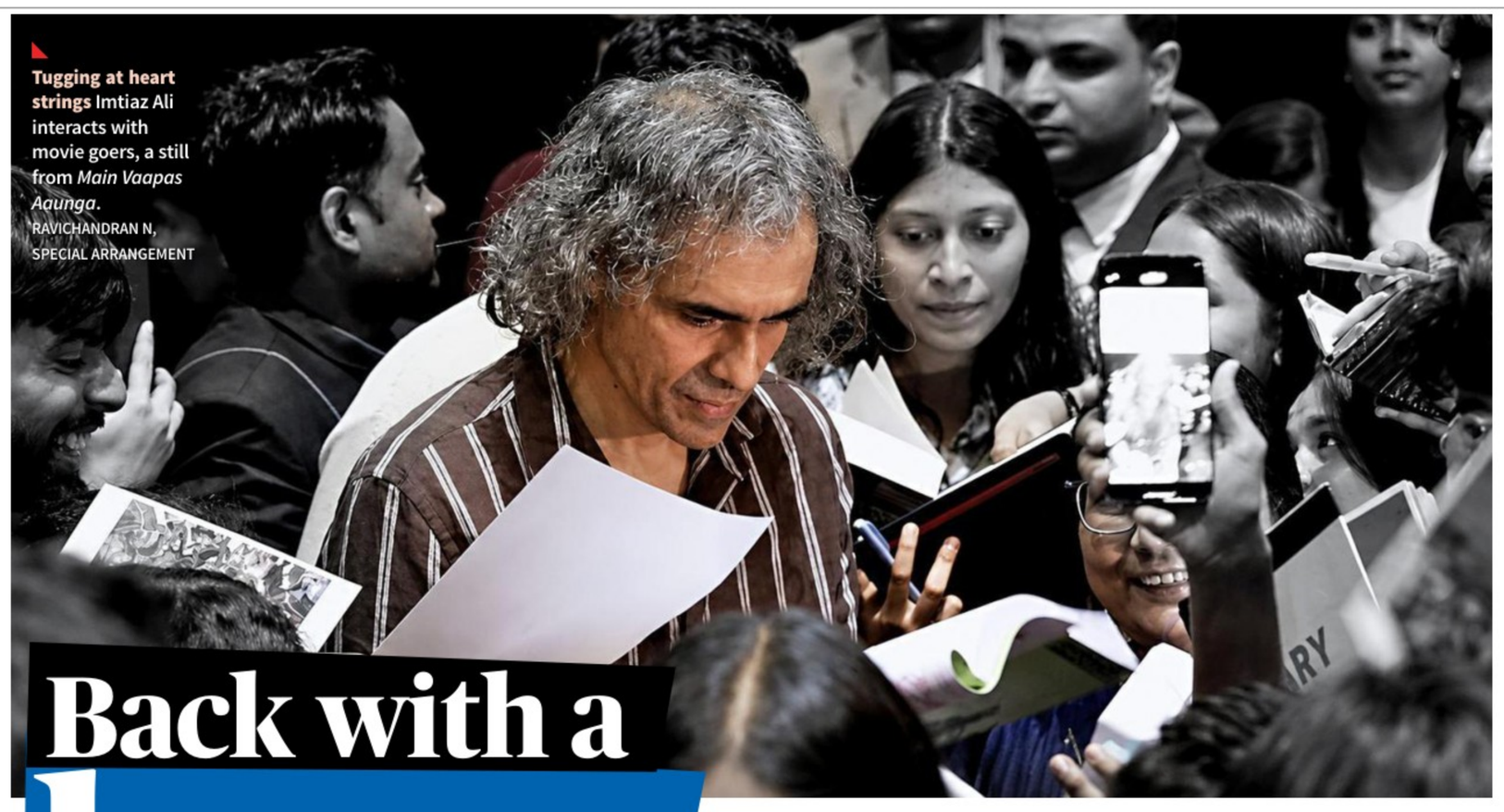
Staff shortage, an issue

Despite the mounting challenges, the newly formed Bengaluru corporations are grappling with a shortage of engineers and staff, according to a Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) official. A city corporation commissioner also pointed out that when a single official is burdened with multiple responsibilities, fixing accountability becomes very difficult.

The shortage extends to the forest wing as well. The city's entire green cover is managed by just 19 officials, including Deputy Conservators of Forests (DCF), Assistant Conservators of Forests (ACF), and Range Forest Officers (RFO).

In this situation, mishaps continue to recur. Just a week after a motorist slipped into a coma after a tree branch fell on his head, a 24-year-old man and a woman sitting on a bench at B.M. Kaval Park in Indiranagar were struck by a falling tree on June 29. As these administrative issues continue to plague the city, victims suffer in silence, hoping their ordeal will eventually come to an end.





Tugging at heart strings Imtiaz Ali interacts with movie goers, a still from *Main Vaapas Aaunga*. RAVICHANDRAN N, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Back with a bang

Bollywood filmmaker Imtiaz Ali opens up about the rise of *Main Vaapas Aaunga*, a Partition drama starring Naseeruddin Shah, Diljit Dosanjh, Sharvari Wagh and Vedang Raina

Vivek MV
vivek.mv@thehindu.co.in

Soon after its release on June 12, 2026, *Main Vaapas Aaunga* was proving to be a typical Imtiaz Ali movie at the box office. Several of his films are celebrated as classics years after underperforming in theatres, and *Main Vaapas Aaunga* seemed to be following a similar trajectory. The film had a limited release and footfalls were far from encouraging.

Then, social media became the movie's biggest ally. One post of appreciation led to another, and more people began turning up at theatres to watch *Main Vaapas Aaunga*. Confessions of crying inside cinema halls followed. Fans wanted to meet, discuss the film, and have a "group crying session". Tweets and Instagram stories urged people to watch the movie.

"People felt a sense of ownership," says Imtiaz. "They watched the movie, liked it and urged their friends and families to watch it too. They made Instagram reels with so much earnestness that everybody came to see what the movie was about."

Seeing the outpouring of love, Imtiaz decided to personally champion the movie by participating in ground-level promotions. He began meeting fans after the show, discussing the movie and thanking them for their support. En route to theatres in Bengaluru, the *Jab We Met* director discusses the remarkable turnaround of his movie.

"My friend Anurag Kashyap, who now resides in Bengaluru, called me to say the film had very few shows in the city," he recalls.

"A week later, they increased, and there was even a 6.30am show, which was filling fast. I was surprised people were waking up to watch a movie. Bengaluru woke up, and parallelly, the entire nation woke up to show love for *Main Vaapas Aaunga*," he says.

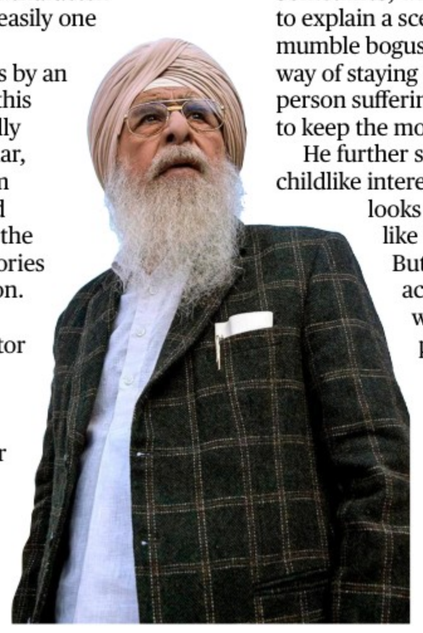
Main Vaapas Aaunga centres on Ishar Singh Grewal, a 95-year-old Sikh man (Naseeruddin Shah) who has spent his life haunted by a promise he made to his first love, Jiya (Sharvari Wagh), to return to her after they were separated during the violence of the 1947 Partition. Diljit Dosanjh plays Ishar's grandson, who decides to fulfill his grandfather's final wish.

With two timelines, fundamentally two different people in love, and a conflict that pushes the couple to consider eloping before they get separated, the trailer of *Main Vaapas Aaunga* suffered from a sense of familiarity. Imtiaz's biggest hits, such as *Love Aaj Kal* and *Jab We Met*, had similar tropes.

"When the trailer of *Main Vaapas Aaunga* was out, many felt it was another *Love Aaj Kal*. A bit of worry crept into my team," admits Imtiaz. "However, I was very sure that this was a different movie. I didn't cast the same actor in the young and old roles. If the young and old characters were written for the same actor, we could have signed a big star. We didn't go in that direction. We wanted two authentic performers representing two timelines. I also knew that when we reveal more about the core concept – Partition – they would wash away all the reminisce of *Love Aaj Kal*," explains the filmmaker.

While an earnest Vedang Raina essayed the young Ishar, Naseeruddin Shah played the older version of the character.

In what is easily one of the finest performances by an Indian actor this year, Shah fully embodies Ishar, suffering from dementia and burdened by the painful memories of the Partition. Imtiaz says Shah is an actor who defies methods.



"It took four hours for him to be ready for scenes because of the prosthetic makeup. He had to lie down, and we had to wire him and put chest leads. So, every time we had to change the light or a shot, he had no option but to lie down on the bed.

"While the lightman would climb on top of him to change the settings, he would be mumbling. Naseer *saab* would talk to himself all the time. Sometimes, when I got close to him to explain a scene, I heard him mumble bogus words. That was his way of staying in the character of a person suffering from dementia and to keep the mood of the scene alive."

He further says, "He had a childlike interest in the movie. He looks like a *khadoos* man, like an angry professor. But when it comes to acting, he performs with the energy of a passionate young actor."

Main Vaapas Aaunga is perhaps Imtiaz's second film after *Chamkila* to deal with a social subject and to use a relationship as a tool to drive the theme.

For someone celebrated for depicting the complex dynamics of relationships against gorgeous backdrops, Imtiaz seems to have evolved as a filmmaker trying to say something significant through the stories of his lead couples.

"That's a fair point; I haven't done it deliberately, though. I wanted to make a film on the dichotomy of Punjab. I felt the story of *Chamkila* was perfect for it. That's the reason you see the Punjab-ness of the plot in the forefront. Similarly, I wanted to say something about the Partition. What did we lose from it? What did we break? Why don't we mention it often?"

Does that mean Imtiaz has turned into a political filmmaker? "Not really. But, you can't avoid the politics of a place," he points out.

"I am also wary of using the word politics, because today, politics means party politics. The dynamics of the relationships come first in my movies. Sometimes, politics is adopted as a convenience for those relationships to prosper. For instance, in *Main Vaapas Aaunga*, the couple doesn't want Partition to happen because they want to be together."

Main Vaapas Aaunga has gone on to overpower popular franchise movies (*Cocktail 2* and *Welcome To The Jungle*) to stage a remarkable victory. Imtiaz confesses that he does not usually track collections.

"But for this movie, I am keen on numbers. I want to tell people how this movie has performed, because they have stood by me," notes Imtiaz, adding that the entire industry is rallying behind him.

"For directors every boardroom discussion revolves around selling the movie. People constantly tell you how much your movie has to achieve on the opening day. This forces you to make a certain kind of film. So, when a movie like *Main Vaapas Aaunga*, the kind of film many wish to make, succeeds at the box office, they want to support it to the fullest," he says.

He adds, "Inevitably, every memory has a tinge of sadness. Because memory is based on the past, and change is a process of loss. The loss of age, friends, time, or the loss of who you were," says Imtiaz, adding, "There is always a sense of poignancy in memory."

The hills come alive

These Naga restaurants in the city share a taste of regional flavours

Jessica Jeba

Nagaland has been known across India for its vibrant tribal culture, heritage and the fiery Bhut jolokia chilli. Today, a growing number of Naga restaurants in Bengaluru are introducing diners to a cuisine that is quite nuance. We visit a few of these Naga restaurants.

Memories of home

Newer additions such as Roots and Ferns - The Homely North East Kitchen, continue with tradition while introducing their own interpretations. It was opened in 2024 by Loni, who says she wanted to fill the void many felt of not being able to relish home food.

The restaurant focuses on home style North-Eastern cooking prepared with locally sourced ingredients. Dishes such as crispy pork salad balance richness with acidity, the Brinjal bora is battered, fried and crunchy and the black rice pudding offers the comfort of kheer, topped with slivers of almonds.

₹800 for two. At HRBR Layout 2nd Block. For more details, call 9713 74777

Taste of tradition

Naga Relish was founded by Helis Achumi, from the Sumi tribe of Nagaland. "There was a lack of Naga representation. That is why I wanted to do this," she says.

The menu is rooted in Naga cooking traditions. The pork rinds were hot, crisp and crackling, while the accompanying chutney packed heat. The Samtu hot wings, were deep fried chicken wings, coated in a sauce made with king chilli.

₹1,000 for two. At HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar. For details, call 079757 96955

Strong start

The Naga Kitchen is run by Pichano Tungoe, who moved to Bengaluru from Nagaland, almost nine years ago. She started as a small cloud kitchen that eventually grew into the rooftop restaurant she runs today. Pichano says, "Our goal is to share authentic Naga food with Bengaluru." The menu is inspired by the Lotha tribe.

The crispy pork is one of their best sellers; rich and savoury, it was a mix of salt, vinegar and a peppery spice. We also had the smoked pork bamboo shoot thali with *axone* (fermented soybean). which came with purple rice, a homely daal, simple steamed vegetables, and a fresh channa salad.

₹1,400 for two. At Kammanahalli. For details, call 9611402268

Living with the wild

Conservation scientist Krithi Karanth on winning the 2026 Rolex National Geographic Explorer of the Year award, the complexity of human-wildlife conflict in India and what organisations like CWS are doing to help

Preeti Zachariah
preeti.zachariah@thehindu.co.in

In love with nature Krithi Karanth says that human-wildlife conflict is almost inevitable in India. AVINASH SOSALE AND H VIBHU

Conservation scientist Krithi Karanth has an audacious goal: to strengthen the conservation programmes of the Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), the organisation she spearheads, across a 100 wildlife reserves of the Eastern and Western Ghats.

"We have designed a range of programmes that we know are already working at different scales and depths in the country, but we can go much deeper," says Krithi, who was named the 2026 Rolex National Geographic Explorer of the Year, an award she received at the Society's annual Explorers Festival earlier this month. She feels that her professional collaboration with *National Geographic* has come full circle with this honour.

"From being their 10,000th grantee to Wayfinder in 2012, and over the years, being awarded multiple grants, I have a 15-year relationship with National Geographic," she says, recalling that when she returned to India in 2010, after her postdoctoral research, she received her first grant from the Society.

"The fact that an institution like Nat Geo, which believes in you when you are young, nurtures you and supports you through all your career ups and downs, and has now chosen me to be the first South Asian to receive this award is something I am very honoured by."

Starting early

Krithi's passion for the natural world began very early. Growing up as the daughter of one of India's leading tiger experts, Ullas Karanth, meant that she spent much of her childhood in forests. "My mum was also a busy professional, so when she had to travel, she would leave me with my dad. And he was usually in the jungle, so I would go along with him and watch animals," she says.

Looking back, she feels incredibly privileged to have grown up amidst wildlife, says Krithi, who went on to complete a Master's in Environmental Science at Yale University in Connecticut and a PhD at Duke University in North Carolina, and is today the CEO of CWS, the organisation founded by her father in 1984.

A conservation optimist

Among the key areas of research carried out by CWS, which run six highly-successful conservation programmes, is human-wildlife conflict, something almost inevitable in India, given "the high densities of people living next to really large megafauna. It is time that people realised that we are working at extremes, and there is an immense challenge ahead."

She remains optimistic, especially because of what she calls India's "cultural tolerance" for wildlife, which she says, "sets it apart from most of the world."

And yes, yet another reason for Krithi's optimism is the work many organisations, including CWS, are doing on the ground to help mitigate conflict.

"I just feel that if we weren't there, a lot more people would be frustrated and not be helped."

STEPOUT

Dyeing diaries

Usha Janardhan, a textile practitioner, workshop facilitator, and educator in sustainable textile design and technology, will conduct a natural dyeing workshop for beginners. The workshop will teach participants to use everyday, natural materials such as onion peels, marigold flowers, sappan wood, and indigo to create natural dyes.

At Atta Galatta, Indiranagar on July 4, between noon and 2pm. Tickets, priced at ₹2500, available at Urbarnaut

Real and present danger

Fieldwork as a Sex Object, Meena Kandasamy's latest novel, which tells the story of how its protagonist, Amy Chaturvedi tries to reclaim her life after a deepfake pornographic video of her begins circulating online, will be launched this weekend.

At Beku, JP Nagar on July 4, 7 pm onwards. The event is free and open to all. Registrations at Urbanaut

Philosophy set to music

Prahlad Singh Tipanya, who brings to life the poetry, philosophy, and timeless wisdom of Kabir, will be performing in three venues in the city this weekend.

At Gayan Samaj, Jayanagar, on July 3 at 7 pm; at Sabha, Kamaraj Road, on July 4 at 6.30 pm; and at Jagriti, Whitefield, on July 5 at 6.30pm. Tickets, starting at ₹799, are available at Urbarnaut

Meeting time: Law mandates that the gap between two legislature sessions should not be more than six months. FILE PHOTO

Monsoon Session dates to be decided in August

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In light of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the State, the dates of the Monsoon Session of the State legislature will be decided in the first or the second week of August. Normally, the legislature session is held in July.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that the decision was taken to allow legislators to remain on the ground in view of the door-to-door enumeration in SIR continuing till July 29, and the draft rolls will be published on August 5.

"The presence of legislators from all parties in their constituencies is required and hence we have decided to finalise dates for the Monsoon Session in the first or the second week of August."

While the law mandates that the gap between two legislature sessions should not be more than six months, the government has time till September 26 to convene the session since the Budget Session ended on March 26, an official said.

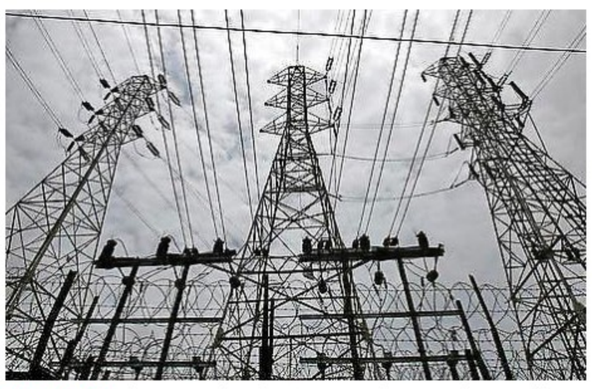
Privatisation of power distribution: Escoms to submit objections

There have been protests against the application by Tata Power for power distribution and it has been pointed out the involvement of a private firm could lead to more losses for Escoms

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid the ongoing controversy over parallel power distribution application made by Tata Power Corporation Ltd. in Karnataka, the Karnataka government has asked five State-run electricity supply companies to submit their objection before the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Authority (KERC), which is set to hear the objections from Friday.

"The application for parallel power distribution has been made before the KERC. The government will make its objection through the Escoms, which have been asked to file individual objections before the KERC," Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar told presspersons here on Thursday. He said that the BJP government in the past had allowed private companies to apply. "Escoms have been asked to submit their disagreement and inform the KERC that the government does not concur with the application."



Power talk: The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Authority will hear objections to Tata's parallel power distribution application in Karnataka from Friday. FILE PHOTO

Earlier, in the light of protests, the Chief Minister had said that a decision would be taken at the Cabinet, and the issue came up for discussion on Thursday.

There has been Statewide protests against the parallel power supply application from Tata Power. It has been pointed out that urban consumers are likely to shift to the private player, and the involvement of a private company could lead to further losses for Escoms.

Besides, farmers who are benefitting from subsidy on IP sets and the Gruha Jyothi scheme that provides free power to households consuming less than 200 units could be affected.

Panel on new dept.

In another Cabinet decision, Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara will be heading a group of Ministers to study and evaluate setting up of a new department called Global Investments and NRI affairs. Mr. Shivakumar said that many suggestions had come on the issue and Dr. Parameshwar has been asked to give a report to the Cabinet.

Under pressure: Road transport corporations have been in distress owing to the increased fuel prices triggered by the West Asia war.

RTCs asked to submit report on losses after fuel price hike

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid speculation over revision of bus fares in the State-run road transport corporations following increase in price of diesel and other petroleum products, the State government has asked the Transport Department to submit a comprehensive report on the losses.

The RTCs have been bleeding under the increased fuel prices triggered by the West Asia war and have also been under pressure over revenue collection in the last three years since Shakti, the scheme allowing free travel for women, was implemented by the State government as one of the five guarantees.

In his post-Cabinet briefing, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that the RTCs were suffering due to the hike in diesel prices. "We also need to take care of employees."

CM: No water from dams for crops unless rains improve

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the deficit monsoon has rendered large parts of Karnataka dry, the State government on Thursday announced that water from major reservoirs will not be released to irrigate crops, and has asked farmers to plan their agricultural activities accordingly. Ministers have been asked to tour districts to monitor the preparedness for drinking water.

"There has been zero inflow into several reservoirs. In the Cauvery basin area, inflow into Krishnaraja Sagar, Hemavati and Kabini reservoirs is meagre compared to corresponding period of last year. Inflow into these reservoirs has fallen to 20% of the normal," Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar told presspersons on Thursday.

D.K. Shivakumar

"I appeal to farmers not to depend on water from reservoirs to irrigate crops. (Farmers should) Think about the rainfall before deciding on the crops. If we get rainfall, we will give water from the reservoirs."

Stating that the Centre has also issued an advisory to the State government over availability of water and power, he said that power generation from hydel sources will also be affected.

"I have asked officials to keep enough stock of coal. The gas-based power generating station in (Yelahanka) Bengaluru will also be kept ready," he added.

BJP urges Shivakumar to declare drought in affected taluks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Expressing concern that drought situation was intensifying in the State, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok has written to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar urging him to take immediate precautions and relief measures on a war footing to manage the situation including declaration of affected taluks as "drought-hit".

In the letter, Mr. Ashok has stated that drought situation had gripped about 150 taluks of the State following inadequate rainfall under the southwest monsoon. Storage level in reservoirs are continuously declining, raising serious concerns that drinking water problems could become acute in the coming days, he said.

He urged the Chief Minister to direct all district in-charge Ministers and in-charge Secretaries to immediately convene district-level drought review meetings and conduct weekly progress reviews. He further demanded that the government should announce a State-wide emergency plan and formulate a comprehensive contingency plan for alternative drought-resistant short-term crops, sowing advice, seeds, fodder, livestock protection, drinking water supply, and emergency employment generation. He urged the government to identify villages that are likely to face drinking water shortages immediately, and release emergency.

The BJP leader asked the government to immediately begin a scientific survey of crop losses and provide interim relief to farmers, besides crop insurance, and necessary agricultural inputs without delay.

"While sowing has declined and delayed, crops already sown are drying up owing to a lack of moisture. This is directly impacting agricultural production and employment. Agricultural labourers are migrating to cities and neighbouring States," he said.

"It is unfortunate that most district in-charge Ministers have neither convened comprehensive review meetings on the drought situation in their districts nor visited the taluks," he criticised.

Govt. to hold 'Prajaseva Abhiyan' every month

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government will undertake 'Prajaseva Abhiyan' in which district in-charge Ministers have been asked to cover two constituencies every month. The drive to address the grievances of people at their doorstep will be held on the first and the third Saturdays of every month.

Meanwhile, senior IAS officer Harsh Gupta, who is the Chairman of the Karnataka Appellate Authority, has been posted as the Principal Secretary to the newly created Prajaseva Department.

The Chief Minister said that applications forms will be provided to people, and they can fill the form before dropping it in the counters. "I will also travel to taluks in between."

TAMILNADU CEMENTS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU UNDERTAKING)
3rd Floor, Aavin Illam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai- 35.
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender Ref.No:02/2026-27, Supply of Manpower to various departments at Alangulam Cement Works, Alangulam, Virudhunagar District
Est. Value: **Rs.5.24 Crore, EMD: Rs.3,00,000/-**
Submission of tender: Up to **12.00 Noon on 03.08.2026**
Important Note:
A pre-bid meeting will be held on 10.07.2026 at 3.00 pm at TANCEM, Registered Office, 5th Floor, Aavin Illam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai – 600 035.
The Tender document can be downloaded from https://tntenders.gov.in Corrigendum / Addendum to this publication, if any would appear only on the above said website.
DIPR /2193/ TENDER / 2026 General Manager (Marketing)/DRO

ಡಾ. ಮನಮೋಹನ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ
DR. MANMOHAN SINGH BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY
Office of the Registrar, Central College Campus,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560001. E-mail: registrar@bcu.ac.in
No: BCU/ACA/PG-Adm/2026-27/033 Date: 01.07.2026

POSTGRADUATE ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026–27

Dr.Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University invites applications from eligible graduates for the following PG courses offered at Jnana Jyothi Central College Campus, University / P.G Centre, Byatarayanapura, Bagluru, Bengaluru and Affiliated Colleges for the Academic Year 2026-2027. **Registration through the Online UUCMS portal https://uucms.karnataka.gov.in/Login/Index**

P.G. COURSES OFFERED AT DR. MANMOHAN SINGH BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENTS / PG CENTER, BYATARAYANAPURA, BAGALURU / AFFILIATED COLLEGES

Sl.No.	Courses Offered	Centers
1	**Faculty of Arts** **M.A:** 1. Kannada 2. English 3. French 4. German 5. Spanish 6. Japanese 7. Economics 8. History 9. Mass Communication and Journalism 10. Political Science 11. Sociology 12. Social Work. **PG Diploma:** 1. Chinese 2. German 3. Japanese 4. French 5. Spanish 6. Korean 7. Italian. **Faculty of Science** **M.Sc:** 1. Physics 2. Chemistry 3. Mathematics 4. Biochemistry 5. Environment and Climate Change 6. Botany 7. Zoology 8. Computer Science 9. Fashion & Apparel Design **Under Self Finance Scheme :** 10. Biotechnology 11. Microbiology 12. M.L.I.Sc. - Master of Library and Information Science 13. Psychology 14. Forensic Science 15. Food and Nutrition 16. Embryology and Reproductive Technology **PG Diploma:** 1. Cyber Security 2.Bioinformatics. **Faculty of Commerce** **M.Com:** 1.General 2. International Business 3.Financial Analysis 4. Financial Technology **PG Diploma:** 1. Business Administration 2. Human Resource Management 3. Marketing Management 4. Financial Management 5. Financial Technology **Faculty of Education** **MA:** Education	**Dr.Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University, Jnanajyothi Central College Main Campus**
2	**M.Com:** General	**P.G Centre, Byatarayanapura, Bagaluru, Bengaluru**
3	**M.A:** 1. Kannada 2. English 3. History 4. Economics 5. Sociology 6. Political Science 7. Social Work 8. Mass Communication and Journalism. **M.V.A:** 1. Animation Design 2. Interior Design 3. Applied Arts 4. Art History 5. Painting 6. Print Making 7. Sculpture. **M.Sc:** 1. Physics 2. Chemistry 3. Mathematics 4. Biochemistry 5. Botany 6. Zoology 7. Computer Science 8. Food Science and Nutrition 9. Biotechnology 10. Microbiology 11. Psychology 12. Clinical Psychology 13. Speech Language Pathology 14. Interior Design and Decoration 15. Nutrition and Dietetics 16. Fashion and Apparel Design **PG Diploma:** 1. Psychological Counselling. **M.Com:** 1. General 2. Financial Analysis 3. International Business 4. MTTM: Master of Tourism and Travel Management. **PG Diploma:** 1. Business Administration 2. Human Resource Management 3. Financial Management.	**Affiliated Colleges (For details Please visit University Website)**

PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORMS: 1) The candidates who wish to apply for PG programmes have to apply ONLINE through the UUCMS Online portal;https://uucms.karnataka.gov.in/Login/Index. from 01.07.2026 onwards. **2)** Candidates awaiting final semester results may also apply for the selection. **3)** The application fee of **Rs. 500/- (Rs.250/- for SC/ST, Category-I and transgender candidates of Karnataka Domicile only) for any 3 subjects** is payable through online only, via payment link provided in the UUCMS platform. For any additional subject **Rs. 100/-** is applicable, Rs. 50/- for SC/ST, Category-I and transgender candidates of Karnataka Domicile only). **4)** Candidates can apply for more than one PG programme by selecting the required programmes in the online application. **5)** For details of eligibility criteria, seat matrix, course fees, and list of Affiliated Colleges offering PG courses, please visit the University website: **https://bcu.ac.in / https://bcu.karnataka.gov.in. 6)** The last date for applying to PG courses of 2026-27 academic year without penal fee is **31.07.2026** However candidates can apply till **10.08.2026** with a penal fee of Rs. 250/-. **7)** The hard copies of the filled in online application along with photocopies of relevant documents shall be submitted separately to the Chairman of the respective PG Departments for which the candidates seek admission. **8)** Applications submitted after the last date, or incomplete applications without relevant documents will be rejected without any notice. **9)** Only applications submitted through UUCMS Portal will be considered for the selection of candidates for admission. **10) Note:** If a minimum of 20 seats are not filled for a particular course, the University will not be running the course for the current academic year. **11)** For more details, contact the Registrar, Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University, Central College Campus, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-Mail ID: **registrar@bcu.ac.in&registrarbcu@gmail.com.**

DIPR/CP/1454/Adverto/2026-27
Sd/- REGISTRAR

NORTH WESTERN KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION CIVIL ENGINEERING DIVISION BELAGAVI.
No. NWKRTC/EE/BGM/DB/263/2026-27 Date: 01/07/2026.
TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. -10/2026-27 (Through Gok Karnataka Public Procurement Portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)
Item rate tenders in Two Cover System are invited through Gok Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for the following work from appropriate class of Registered Contractors in KPWD/CPWD/MES as per the schedule given below.
Sl.No.1Tender Notification No.10. Name of Work : Construction of New EV (Electrical Vehicle) Depot in Depot 2 premises at Belagavi. (Under PM-eBus Sewa scheme) Type of Tender : Two Cover. Amount Put to Tender (Rs. In Lakhs) : 1024=38. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.) : 15,00,000=00. Class of Contractor :Class-1. Last date for submission of Tender : 30/07/2026
For further details visit https:/ /_www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in for any "HELP" regarding uploading of Tender Documents, please call on help desk -+91-8046010000 and +91-8068948777 of all working hours. Bidders can contact this office for further details in all working hours or Call 0831-2451475. Any changes in Tender Notification, Corrigendum/Addendum will be published in Gok Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only, separate paper notification will not be issued.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, NWKRTC CE Division BELAGAVI.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-523/KSMCA/2026-27

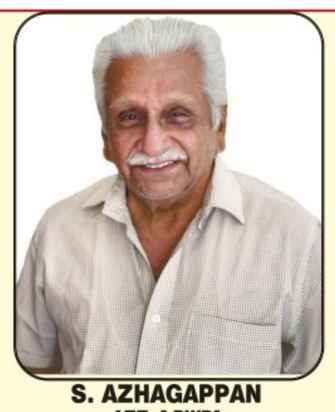
BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK, BENGALURU - 83.
Phone: 080-29776466 / 67 E-mail: ed@bannerughattabiopark.org
No: A3/BBP/e-Tender/Feed/CR-1/2026-27 Date: 30-06-2026
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Deputy Director, Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru herein after referred as Tender Inviting Authority, has invited e-Tender for **Supply of Various Feeding Materials for the Captive Wild Animals - Birds Housed at Different Units in Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru** for one year from the date of agreement through e-Procurement Portal from the reputed Firms / Contractor.

Sl. No.	Details	Approximate cost of the commodities put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD to be furnished (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Supply of Food Grains, Pulses, Feed etc.,	200.00	3.00
2	Supply of Green Grass (Napier/ Guinea / Rhods / Para / Anjan)	455.00	6.825

Detailed tender documents may be downloaded from the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fees electronically in e-Procurement Portal: **15-07-2026 upto 4.00 PM.** Tender will be Opened on **18-07-2026 at 11.30 AM.**
Sd/- Deputy Director
DIPR/CP/1441/Adverto/2026-27

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



S. AZHAGAPPAN
AEE [PWD]
S/o.late.Thiru. A.Subramania Pillai & H/o. late.Tmt. A.Thangam
04/07/1939 - 02/07/2026
Cremation on 03-07-2026
12 Noon @ Besant Nagar

In grief
N. Subbulakshmi, A. Muthu Subramaniam
K. Namasivayam, M. Aruna,
N. Pon Krithika, M. Varun, Aarudhra
Colachel A.Subramania Pillai &
T. K. S. Families, Chennai

Plot 1692A, 5th Cross street, Ram Nagar South, Madipakkam, Chennai- 600 091. +91 81227 74167

HC stays GO to withdraw cases related to Aland violence

The govt. had decided to withdraw 8 criminal cases booked in connection with the 2022 incident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday stayed the May 27 Government Order (GO) for withdrawing eight criminal cases registered in connection with the violence on the disputed Ladle Mashaq Dargah premises at Aland town in Kalaburagi district in March 2022.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice K.S. Hemalekha passed the interim order on a PIL petition filed by city-based advocate Girish Bharadwaj.

The government's notification had instructed the public prosecutors to withdraw the eight cases, registered in Aland police station, in which chargesheets were filed for serious offences like attempt to murder, rioting with weapons, promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony, assault/criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty, Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace, criminal intimidation and conspiracy, etc., the petitioner has pointed out.

The May 27 notification, issued based on the May 21 approval given by the State Cabinet for withdrawing the criminal cases, was not only contrary to Section 321 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.P.C) but a direct violation of the 2025 judgment of the High Court, which had set aside the government's decision to withdraw 43 criminal cases in a similar manner terming them as contrary to Section 321 of Cr.P.C, it has been contended in the petition.

The petitioner has pointed out attempt to withdraw these eight cases began in 2023 when the managing committee of the Dargah Hazrat Ladle Malikul Mashaikh Makhdoom Ansari (Sunni) submitted a representation to U.T. Khader, then Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Khadar, in turn, forwarded the committee's request to the then Home Minister characterising the accused persons as "innocent persons".

Also, the petitioner has pointed out that the State Cabinet ignored the repeated opinions, given by the Department of Prosecution and Government Litigation, and the Police Department between 2024 and February 2026, against the withdrawal of these criminal cases related to serious offences.

RDPR Minister Eshwar Khandre has said that the government decided to roll out the new employment guarantee scheme in the interest of poor, farmers, Dalits, and women. FILE PHOTO

State set for rollout of VB-G RAM G scheme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Legal decks have been cleared for the rollout of the VB-G RAM G scheme in Karnataka with the State government issuing a notification in this regard on Thursday. The notification comes on the eve of the meeting of RDPR Ministers convened by the Centre in Delhi on Friday.

Karnataka RDPR Minister Eshwar Khandre told presspersons in Bengaluru that the government had decided to roll out the new version of the employment guarantee scheme in the interest of poor, farmers, Dalits and women though it would increase the share of funds to be provided by the State six-fold.

The Minister pointed out that the earlier version of this scheme had prescribed a fund-sharing proportion of 90:10 under which the State had to bear only 10% of the project cost unlike the previous system.

"Of the total project cost of about ₹61,000 crore under the earlier scheme in the last 20 years, the Centre itself had spent about ₹56,000 crore while the State had spent just ₹4,800 crore. But now, the State needs to spend ₹3,806 crore on the new version of the scheme for this year itself," he pointed out.

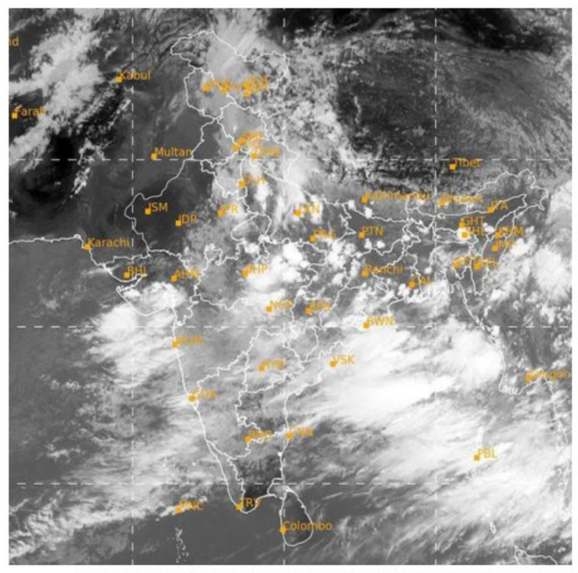
In addition to this, the Centre had declared a holiday of 60 days during the harvesting period, the Minister said.

Mr. Khandre said he had registered the State's opposition to the fund-sharing formula of the scheme during a recent meeting with Union Minister Shivaraj Singh Chauhan.

Mr. Khandre said Friday's meeting would discuss various issues related to implementation of recommendations by the 16th Finance Commission. Alleging that Karnataka had been meted out injustice by the 15th Finance Commission, the Minister expressed concern that the State was yet to get its share of ₹2,186 crore for 2025-26 as per the recommendation by the 15th Finance Commission.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	1.6	34.9	26.1	Kurnool	—	34.5	26.6
Ahmedabad	—	37.8	28.5	Lucknow	1	35.3	28.0
Aizawl	11.9	32.0	23.3	Madurai	—	39.5	26.8
Bengaluru	—	29.0	21.1	Mangaluru	32.8	28.4	24.0
Bhopal	—	31.4	24.9	Mumbai	204.6	28.4	23.0
Bhubaneswar	28.9	31.2	25.6	Mysuru	—	28.0	20.2
Chandigarh	10.7	33.6	24.5	New Delhi	4.6	34.8	22.8
Chennai	—	37.5	29.8	Patna	1.2	35.2	28.8
Coimbatore	—	32.2	22.6	Port Blair	2.3	30.1	26.9
Dehradun	79.6	30.4	20.4	Prayagraj	3.2	37.4	27.0
Gangtok	39.6	23.6	18.7	Puducherry	—	37.8	29.4
Goa	18	29.0	25.3	Pune	13.8	27.0	22.2
Guwahati	9.2	35.6	26.4	Raipur	—	34.2	26.1
Hubballi	—	26.0	23.0	Ranchi	—	29.0	24.0
Hyderabad	—	32.0	24.5	Shillong	0.1	26.7	17.8
Imphal	—	32.1	27.1	Shimla	12.4	26.4	19.0
Jaipur	1.7	33.6	26.6	Srinagar	2.4	29.1	18.6
Kochi	0.8	30.4	25.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.8	24.8
Kohima	—	27.0	19.0	Tiruchirappalli	—	38.1	27.6
Kolkata	0.8	35.0	27.4	Vijayawada	0.2	34.0	27.0
Kozhikode	12	28.9	24.4	Visakhapatnam	—	30.9	27.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	104	30	53	60	63	
Bengaluru	15	30	53	—	109	
Chennai	6	14	30	31	98	
Delhi	11	39	70	110	176	
Hyderabad	12	18	30	46	63	
Kolkata	16	22	67	73	88	
Lucknow	34	12	34	57	86	
Mumbai	6	18	37	25	50	
Pune	—	44	95	42	72	
Visakhapatnam	15	59	16	33	67	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sonipat, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 344 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

OC deadline extended

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Government has extended the last date for applying for occupancy certificate / clearance certificate exemption for residential buildings to August 15. The Government has launched the exemption scheme to residential properties that are built within the 2,400 square feet.

Kumbh Mela woman's husband denied relief by High Court

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Thursday refused to extend the transit bail granted to Farmaan Khan, actor and husband of the woman who went viral during the Kumbh Mela, in a kidnapping case filed by her father.

A Single Bench of Justice Kauser Edappagath was informed by the State of Madhya Pradesh that the anticipatory bail plea moved by Mr. Khan had been dismissed by a Special Judge under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

The High Court observed that once the anticipatory bail plea was filed in Madhya Pradesh, the court did not possess any further jurisdiction in the matter.

Earlier, controversy had erupted over the interfaith marriage between Mr. Khan and the woman atter her family had accused him of engaging in "love jihad" and filed charges alleging kidnapping, offences under the SC/ST law, and child marriage.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No:B31/SEE(IT)/EE(IT-3)/76444/2026-27 Date:02.07.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No:B31/SEE(IT)/76420/2026-27 for **"Design, Supply, Installation, Configuration, Integration, Testing and Commissioning of an Integrated Secure Infrastructure Solution Across KPTCL sub-stations and Centralized Locations".**
The bids will be received through e-procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the enquiry can be obtained by logging into KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' OR **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **03.07.2026.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Tech.),
Corporate Office, KPTCL, 11th Floor, Indhana Bhavana, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru-09

KARNATAKA SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
3rd Floor, **Koushalya Bhavana**, Bannerghatta Road
Dairy Circle, Bengaluru -560029, Phone No: 080-29522222
E-mail ID: skilldev.2017@gmail.com

No.:KSDC/CMKKY/RAMP/CR-41/2025-26 Dated:01-07-2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Skill Development Corporation has invited the **"MSME-RAMP"** Tender. (Two cover bid system) as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act-2000 through e-procurement portal. Bids are invited from the eligible bidders for **"EOI from Private Vocational Training Providers to provide training under the MSME RAMP Scheme Call-2.** Tender Document Number: **KSDC/2026-27/PREQUAL_TENDER-NUMBER_9**. Tender Document is Available for download from: **02-07-2026.** Last date for Proposal Submission: **15-07-2026**. The e-tender notification documents & tender processing fees. EMD details are available in e-procurement web portal-**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Helpdesk– : **Ph No:+91- 9240214000/+91- 9240214001** or you may also contact the office during working hours.

Sd/-
Tender Inviting Authority and Executive Director-3, KSDC, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1455/CCL/2026-27

Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Ramanagara Special Division
Ramanagara, Bengaluru South Dist.

No. EE/PWD/RMN Spl.Div./TND-07/2026-27 Date : 01.07.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited in two cover system from the eligible contractors for **01 works** from **Rs. 695.00 Lakhs** through e-procurement portal as per the Standard bid documents. The eligible contractors can participate in this tender through e-procurement portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Documents may be downloaded from **03.07.2026 to 01.08.2026.** Last date for submission of tender **01.08.2026 upto 16:00 hours.** Date of Pre-bid meeting: **23.07.2026 at 11:30 Hours.** Date of opening of Technical bid **03.08.2026 (If possible) at 11:30 hours.** Tender Processing Fees, EMD as per E-Procurement. For more information contact the undersigned during Office Hours.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
PWD Special Division, Ramanagara
Bengaluru South Dist.

DIPR/BSD/150/SA/2026-27

CITY MUNCIPAL COUNCIL, KANAKAPURA
Ph: 080-27522428. e-mail: ka.kanakapuracmc@gmail.com
website: http://www.kanakapuracity.mrc.gov.in

No. CMC/KKP/TS/CR/TEN-04/2026-27 Date: 01.07.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Municipal Commissioner, CMC. Kanakapura invited tenders from eligible Agencies, contractors registered with the Public Works Department under the Civil Registration Act for the following Annual Maintaince, DPR, PMC and Other Works under the UIDF. UCF and Municipal Fund subject to the terms and conditions of the relevant tender document. **1)** DMA/2026-27/SE7975/CALLL-2 Estimated Amount **Rs. 17.26 Lakhs. 2)** DMA/2026-27/SE7972/CALL-2 Estimated Amount **Rs.21.74 Lakhs. 3)** DMA/2026-27/SE7973/CALL-2 Estimated Amount **Rs. 11.05 Lakhs. 4)** DMA/2026-27/OW/ WORK_INDENT59485/CALL-2 Estimated Amount **Rs. 13.00 Lakhs. 5)** DMA/2026-27/OW/ WORK_INDENT 59486/CALL-2 Estimated Amount **Rs. 25.00 Lakhs. 6)** DMA/2026-27/OW/ WORK_INDENT59467/CALL-2 Estimated Amount **Rs. 25.00 Lakhs. 7)** DMA/2026-27/WS/ WORK_INDENT59489/CALL-2 Estimated Amount **Rs. 15.00 Lakhs. 8)** DMA/2026-27/SE7999 Estimated Amount **Rs. 77.80 Lakhs. 9)** DMA/2026-27/OW/ WORK_INDENT59954 Estimated Amount **Rs. 2000.00 Lakhs. 10)** DMA/2026-27/SE8109 (Non ECV) **11)** DMA/ 2026-27/SE8112 Estimated Amount **Rs. 21.74 Lakhs**. **12)** DMA/2026-27/SE8113 Estimated Amount **Rs. 46.32 Lakhs. 13)** DMA/2026-27/SE7981 (Non ECV).
The details of the tender date and other information are as follows. The last date for submission of tender is **15.07.2026 till 17:30 PM.** The date of opening of technical bid is **17.07.2026 at 11:00 AM**. the date of opening of financial bid is **23.07.02026 at 11:00 AM.** Any corrigendum or extension of time will be published in e-procurement portal only, not be published in any newspaper. Further details can be obtained from the office technical branch.

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner
CMC. Kanakapura

DIPR/BSD/155/SA/2025-26

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA
Bengaluru-560001

No. HCRB/ACS-1/2026 (RPC) **Date: 02.07.2026**
HCRB/ACS-2/2026 (KKR)

BRIEF NOTIFICATION (REVISED)

Notification Nos. HCRB/ACS-1/2026 (RPC) and HCRB/ACS - 2/2026 (KKR) dated 16th March, 2026 inviting applications through online from the eligible candidates to fill up 70 posts of Assistant Court Secretary are revised in view of the Government of Karnataka Order No. SWD 515 PKV 2026 dated **08.05.2026.**
Revised Notification Nos. HCRB/ACS - 1/2026 (RPC) and HCRB/ACS - 2/2026 (KKR) dated 1st July, 2026 are issued inviting online applications for filling up of 85 posts of Assistant Court Secretary [73 posts under Residual Parent Cadre including 06 backlog posts and 12 posts under Kalyana Karnataka Region including 07 backlog posts] in the official website of High Court of Karnataka at **judiciary.karnataka.gov.in.** Pay scale for the said post is **Rs.44,900/- Rs.1,42,400/-.** The closing date for submission of online application is **30th July, 2026 upto 11.59 p.m.** No other means / mode of applications will be accepted. The Revised Notification and other details are available in the above mentioned portal and in the official Gazette (E-Gazette) of Karnataka.
Note: The candidates who have submitted application through online in pursuance to the Notification Nos. HCRB/ACS-1/2026 (RPC) and HCRB/ACS-2/2026 (KKR) dated 16th March, 2026 need not submit application afresh and pay application fee. However, the candidates who have claimed reservation under Scheduled Caste should furnish the information in respect of Internal Reservation (Category A, B and C) and upload the caste certificate mandatorily. For further information visit the official website of High Court of Karnataka at **judiciary.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- (M. CHANDRASHEKAR REDDY)
REGISTRAR GENERAL ,
HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU.

DIPR/CP/1434/Zen/2026-27

Bengaluru South Zilla Panchayat
Office of the Executive Engineer
PANCHAYATHRAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION
Ramanagara, Bangalore South Dist.

No.EE/PRED/RMG/JE/06/2026-27/429-436 Date: 02.07.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Only through KPP Portal system)

The Executive Engineer, Panchayathraj Engineering Division, Ramanagara, Bangalore South Dist invites the Itemwise tender. Contractors registered in KPWD, enrolled in PRED/ PWD Licence for the works In Magadi Taluk Under Head of Account: 2025-26th Year development scheme of CMIDP Grant, Name of Work **(1) Road and drainage construction and other development works from Magadi-Ramanagar main road to Karlehalli Basaveshwara Temple, Magadi Taluk.** Indent No: RDPR/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT26102 Tender Estimate amount work of **Rs.350.00 lakh.** Last Date for submission of Tender **Dated: 31.07.2026 by 4:00 PM.** Opening of the Tenchical BidTender **Dated: 01.08.2026 at 4:30 PM.** Opening of the Financical BidTender **Dated: 20.08.2026 at 4.30 PM** on wards For details & further information visit the website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Or contact this office in office hours.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
Panchayathraj Engineering Division

DIPR/BSD/152/SA/2026-27

Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
6/13/1, 10th Block, 2nd Stage, Nagarabhavi,
Bengaluru-560072, Ph:080-22282220,
email: kredlmd@gmail.com, www.kredl.karnataka.gov.in

No: KREDL/07/SG-1702/2GW Solar with 1GWhr BESS/2026
Dated:03.07.2026

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited hereby invites bids for Selection of Developer for establishment of 2GW Solar PV Plant with 1GWh BESS (dispatchable capacity)at Ryapte, Pavagada Taluk, Tumakuru District in Karnataka, duly interconnecting to proposed 400/220kV KPTCL Ryapte sub-station, awarded under Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) for procurement of Power by ESCOMs. The project shall be developed in following 6 Blocks:

Sl. No.	Block	Solar in MW	BESS in MW/MWh
1	Block-1	500	125/250
2	Block-2	500	125/250
3	Block-3	250	62.5/125
4	Block-4	250	62.5/125
5	Block-5	250	62.5/125
6	Block-6	250	62.5/125
Total		2000	500/1000

Bid documents will be available in the Bharat Electronic Tender Portal **(https://www.bharat-electronictender.com) on or after 06.07.2026.** The Last date for submission of bids **is 07.09.2026.** Further amendments if any, shall only be notified in the Bharat Electronic Tender Portal.
Note: KREDL reserves the right to annul the bidding process and invite fresh bids without liability or obligation for such invitation and without assigning any reasons.

Sd/- Assistant General Manager-RAP, KREDL

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Regd. Office: 3rd Floor, KHB Shopping Complex
National Games Village, Koramangala, BENGALURU-560 047
Phone: 2571 0501, Fax: 2570 7380
e-mail: rohgml@gmail.com No. CIN U85110KA1947SGC001321

No.: HGM/RO/E-Auction/2025-26 Date: 03.07.2026

NOTIFICATION
INVITING BIDS FOR FIXED DEPOSITS

The Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited (HGML) intends to invest its Surplus Funds through e-Auction in the deposits with both Public Sector Banks including RRBs as under:

Sl.No	Public Sector Banks including RRBs (Non-Callable FD)	Period of Investment
1	Rs. 200.00 Crores	One Year (365 days)

The details of the e-Auction of this tender can be downloaded from the e-Portal of the Government of Karnataka at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **04.07.2026.**

The Schedule of events for e-auction are as under

1) Uploading of bid documents in e-portal: **06.07.2026, 12.00 Noon. 2)** Last date to upload the declaration in Annexure-A in the e-portal: **13.07.2026 on or before 1.00 PM. 3)** Live bidding for interest rates: **15.07.2026 between 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM.**

Sd/-
Managing Director

DIPR/CP/1446/SA/2026-27

THE LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA

Karnataka Government
(Hindu Religious Endowments Department)
Office Of Executive Officer
Sri Gurubasaveshwara Temple Kotturu,
Kotturu Tq. Vijayanagar District

No.SKGBT/CR/09/2019-20 **Date:30.06.2026**

-:Tender published:-

Vijayanagar district, Kottur taluk, Kottur regarding the supply of pure silver required for the construction of the silver cover for the main door of the Sri Gurubasaveshwaraswamy temple. tenders are invited through the Public Procurement Portal from the registered qualified silver sellers/agencies in accordance with the Karnataka Public Procurement Transparency Rules KG-2 standard tender documents as below. ವಿವರ: "SUPPLYING OF BARSILVER FOR KOTTURU SRI GURUBASAVESHWARASWAMY TEMPLE MAIN DOOR COVERING WORK" (INDENT NO:- HRICE/2026-27/IND1089). **Tender amount (all taxes in Rs. lakhs): 125.00. E.M.D Ammount (in Rs.): 2,50,000.00**
Last date & time for tender queries / clarifications: **08-07-2026 12:00:00.** Last date and time for receipt of tender technical bids: **15-07-2026 16:00:00.** Date & time for opening of Technical bids: **16-07-2026 17:30:00.** Date & time for opening of Financial bids: **17-07-2026 17:00:00.** Auto extension of tender schedule: **05 days**
On the above dates accidental holidays will be considered the next day. For tender registration and conditions, please log in to the https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in website, fill out the tender. For more information, please contact the undersigned officials Shri Guru Basaveshwar Swami Temple Kotturu (MO. 9902520253) during office timings.

Sd/- Executive officer
Sri Gurubasaveshwaraswamy Temple Kotturu.

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/166

Unwelcome surge

The buoyancy in GST collections is spurred by imported inflation

India's June GST collections rose 13.9% year-on-year to ₹1.95 lakh crore, driven largely by import IGST, which surged 34.6% compared with June 2025, up from 17.2% growth in May. Domestic GST collections grew by a more modest 6.5%, suggesting that the sharp increase in overall collections owes less to a broad-based improvement in domestic value addition. Some economists have argued that this reflects stronger imports of capital goods and industrial inputs. However, May petroleum products' trade data and Q1 FY27 data on the performance of the eight core industries, point to a rather different explanation. June GST collections reflect economic activity during May. While crude and petroleum products constituted a 54% rise this May (YoY) in merchandise imports by value, the other chunk was gold, which constituted another 34% rise. The surge in gold price, by nearly 60% between last May and this May, suggests hedging during difficult times, rather than broad-based economic activity. To stem gold imports, the government hiked its import duty from 6% to 15% on May 13, which likely added to the May import GST kitty. This period also coincided with the rupee depreciating by almost 6% against the U.S. dollar since late February. This coupled with a spike in freight charges, and a 14.5% rise on non-oil imports in May at elevated global prices mechanically raised the June tax base. This suggests that much of the import GST rise is driven by imported inflation and currency depreciation rather than domestic production growth, indicating an unwelcome increase due to higher prices.

Read alongside the performance of India's eight core industries, which expanded by only about 2.8% in Q1 FY27 compared with around 6% in the corresponding period last year, the domestic economy appears more subdued. Growth has been expectedly weak in crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers and electricity. The latest HSBC Manufacturing PMI reading of 54.2 likewise points to steady but moderating factory activity, marking the second-lowest expansion in 13 months. These figures come as India marks nine years of GST as a unified destination-based indirect tax. The government can point to the expansion of the tax base from about 66 lakh taxpayers in 2017 to over 1.65 crore today, reflecting better compliance, greater formalisation, and faster refunds, though input tax credit, litigation and federal balance in revenue sharing issues remain unresolved. GST has strengthened India's indirect tax architecture. Yet, the June numbers are a reminder that a growing share of the recent buoyancy appears to have been underwritten by imported inflation and a depreciating rupee rather than stronger domestic value addition.

A hold on AI

AI holds scientific promise, but it should not unfold unchecked

The UN's Preliminary Report of the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI drives at a few fault lines in the rapid investment into and proliferation of AI technologies: the Global South-Global North divide, with the latter poised to take the lion's share of the benefits of the diffusion of advanced AI models in different industries; and the challenge poorer countries face in regulating models far more advanced than what their own AI ecosystems can develop. These divides force emerging countries to choose between capital-intensive undertakings to get a seat at the table, or to accept the hand dealt to them by the half-dozen companies whose decisions shape AI access and use. These divisions are all the more urgent when seen in the light of what makes a country a voice that matters in AI: abundant electricity, highly capitalised firms that employ scarce talent with high salaries, and a drive to plow through policy resistance with a competitive zeal to outdo last month's capabilities. While the report highlights AI technologies' transformative potential in scientific research, its development is far more rapid than that of social media – an industry that had time to act responsibly yet deformed public discourse and affected democracies, even as people were more or less able to tell what was going on in real time. It is unclear whether individual countries, even China or the U.S., have enough power to meaningfully arrest how AI develops.

AI firms acting irresponsibly have already caused harms that would not be tolerated in any other industry. AI models have ensnared teenagers and adults in parasocial fantasies that have sometimes turned fatal; they have flattened the world wide web, grievously injuring the news media's ability to deploy resources in their respective missions to inform the public; they have unleashed an epidemic of deepfakes, undermining trust in the written word and images alike; and they have deeply intertwined their promises of Artificial General Intelligence with global financial systems, with possible catastrophic economic consequences. The most important task for governments is how to hold these firms to account when needed, as taking a backseat on this conversation – even if industry leaders ignore the Global South's concerns – carries far greater costs. India has already experienced the cost of not asserting itself in the technology development of the decade: even as Anthropic's Mythos and Fable held out the tantalising promise of securing vast cyber systems, the U.S. pulled access, leaving the firms that had these models to ponder the risk of a different model succeeding at attacking their infrastructure. There is a limit to visions of AI as a geostrategic asset; much needs to be done to address its potential for broad damage.

The right to a fair trial at the crossroads

Gautam Bhatia
Delhi-based lawyer

When, earlier this year, the Supreme Court of India denied bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the 2020 Delhi Riots cases (while granting bail to five other individuals in the same case), one key question that arose was this: "how long is too long" for people to be kept in jail without being found guilty of an offence? At the time of the Court's judgment, Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam had spent more than five years in jail without trial; at the time of writing, that period is approaching six years.

Bail, delay, and rights

In its own prior judgments, the Court had noted that an extended delay in trial would trigger an accused's right to personal liberty under Article 21. Thus, even though the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) has strict requirements for delay, these statutory restrictions could not override the constitutional (and indeed, human) right to personal liberty.

However, in denying bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam, another Bench of the Court noted that a delay in the trial could not create an iron-clad right to bail, but would have to be weighed against other factors such as the gravity of the offence and which of the parties was "responsible" for the delay. With respect, these observations appear to miss the point. Issues such as the gravity of an offence are factors used to determine, in the first instance, whether or not a case for bail is made out. To then invoke the gravity of the offence–which, at the stage of bail, is only an allegation made by the state – to override the question of delay essentially creates a sliding scale under which certain individuals can be kept in jail for decades simply because they have been "accused" of grave offences.

Indeed, this has happened: people accused under the UAPA have been kept in jail for more than two decades before eventually being acquitted, with the best years of their lives robbed from them. Indeed, the very fact that this has happened on more than one occasion ought to have given the Court pause.

Nor does the argument that the accused themselves might be responsible for delaying the trial hold any water. Whatever applications an accused (or, for that matter, the state) may make, ultimately it is the judge who controls the courtroom and the pace of the trial, and it is the judge upon whom the ultimate responsibility rests to ensure that trials are completed within a reasonable timeframe.

As proceedings in the 2020 Delhi Riots cases show, endless imprisonment without trial raises urgent questions about liberty and justice

Indeed, it was clear that the Court itself recognised some of these issues when, in a rare move, another two-judge Bench recently openly criticised the Delhi Riots bail rejection as being contrary to established precedent and reiterated the fundamental principle that, under a Constitution committed to the rule of law, individuals cannot be incarcerated indefinitely without a trial.

In response, and in another case, the Delhi Riots Bench "referred" this question to the Chief Justice to constitute a larger Bench to resolve. With respect, the very fact that the Supreme Court is effectively debating whether people who have spent more than half a decade in jail (the amount of time that another famous political prisoner, Captain Alfred Dreyfus, did) should or should not be released, is a cause for consternation.

Bail and legal inconsistency

In the meantime, at the level of the trial court and the High Courts, conflict and inconsistency in judicial decisions continue to persist. Recently, the High Court of Delhi (correctly) granted bail to the Kashmiri human rights activist, Khurram Parvez, who had been incarcerated for more than four years without trial. This length of time in prison without trial weighed heavily with the High Court in deciding to grant bail. What is curious, however, is that the judge who (correctly) granted Khurram Parvez bail had denied bail in the Delhi Riots cases the previous year, when the accused in that case had already spent more than four years in jail. Nor is this the only instance of the same judge speaking with different judicial voices: in the Delhi Riots cases themselves, on the same underlying facts, the same judge delivered opposing bail judgments a year apart.

It is trite to say that no case is identical to the other. On an issue as basic as pre-trial incarceration, repeated inconsistencies across cases and courts undermine the rule of law and, ultimately, damage the cause of fundamental rights and individual liberty. These questions assume particular significance because laws such as the UAPA, in particular, have an undeniably political character, and it has been demonstrated across the world that states are only too happy to interpret these laws in a way that blurs the line between political dissent and what the law defines as "terrorism". Recent attempts in the United Kingdom and the United States around dissent linked to Israel's genocide in Palestine are examples of this.

What the judiciary must ensure

In such a context, it becomes particularly important for the judiciary to ensure that such laws are not weaponised. While legal interpretation is subjective, one thing is – and should be – crystal clear: that the state cannot keep people behind bars for years without trial. It makes a mockery of having a system based on the rule of law, and one that – to use the old adage – entrenches the process as the punishment.

It is unclear whether – or when – the Court's larger Bench will opine on the issue. In the meantime, however, there remain contentious UAPA cases, where individuals continue to be imprisoned without trial, and their time spent in custody continues to increase with no resolution in sight. Indeed, one such case is that of Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam, the last two individuals among the accused student activists who remain in custody in the "Delhi Riots cases". After the denial of bail by the Supreme Court, the case is once again coming up before the trial court this week; in the meantime, five years in prison have turned into six, and the cost – both to the lives of the imprisoned individuals and to the rule of law – has continued to become steeper.

Ultimately, therefore, this issue is both about individual human lives and about our commitment as a society to human and democratic values. As these cases continue to arise, the courts will once again have an opportunity to reaffirm these values, whether in individual bail cases before trial courts or when it comes to laying down the law before the Court. It is to be hoped that this happens, and that the cycle of endless imprisonment without trial is broken.

A shot at life, Mandsaur's model for HPV vaccination

Aditi Garg
Collector and District Magistrate, Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh

The birth of Savita (name changed) in Mandsaur district, Madhya Pradesh, 14 years ago was a moment of celebration for her family. The Banchhada community she was born into – a denotified tribe in Madhya Pradesh traditionally associated with sex work – welcomes the birth of girls, who are often viewed as future breadwinners. Yet, when a team of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccinators recently approached Savita's family, they were apprehensive. "Will she be able to work?" they asked candidly, worried about the vaccine's future impact.

Their hesitation was neither unexpected nor isolated. Although cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among Indian women, preventive health-care initiatives often grapple with low levels of awareness and social stigma. Cervical cancer vaccination faces a distinct set of challenges – low cultural sensitivity around sexual health and gender bias, coupled with vaccine hesitancy – making it a pressing public health concern.

In light of this, the Government of India launched a nationwide cervical cancer campaign on February 28, 2026, providing free HPV vaccinations to 1.15 crore girls aged 14-15 years. India bears a quarter of the global cervical cancer burden, reporting over 1.2 lakh new cases and 80,000 deaths annually. Since nearly 95% of cases are caused by high-risk HPV strains, vaccination offers a significant preventive breakthrough.

From data to coverage

To implement the programme effectively and inclusively, the Mandsaur district administration adopted a data-driven, decentralised and adaptive strategy. For exhaustive coverage, the most vulnerable and often overlooked populations were targeted first.

Girls from difficult-to-reach communities – Banchhadas, nomadic tribes, urban slums, and school dropouts – became the starting point. These "missed populations" are at greater risk of falling off the radar of government service delivery.

At the grassroots, the challenge is often not vaccine hesitancy but data invisibility. Leveraging multiple government databases – Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), SAMAGRA MP (a citizen-centric social security platform by the Government of Madhya Pradesh) and Ladli Laxmi Yojana hyper-localised target lists were created. Fragmented records were transformed into actionable intelligence. Door-to-door surveys and tracking through SAMAGRA IDs ensured that eligible girls did not fall through statistical gaps. School and anganwadi enrolment gaps over the years were meticulously analysed to prepare village-level Master Line Lists. Rapid identification of 'low-coverage/high-resistance' areas enabled coordinated micro-planning. Mapping vulnerable groups geographically also enabled customising communication strategies, tailored to cultural sensitivities.

This district in Madhya Pradesh has demonstrated effective grassroots strategies for HPV vaccination delivery

Reducing barriers through 'nudges'

Behavioural insights played a pivotal role in grassroots' saturation. The district relied on the "Nudge Approach" that helped design an environment where vaccination became the default choice. This helped in effectively breaking down grassroots barriers such as reluctance, inertia, social discomfort. Health-care workers informed families that their daughters were 'due for vaccination', rather than asking them to choose to vaccinate. Families who refused vaccinations received repeated counselling visits by health-care teams. Schools and local bodies arranged transportation to eliminate logistical barriers, simplifying access.

Misinformation hoaxes and myths around vaccine-induced infertility resulted in initial resistance. To counter rumours, the administration launched targeted awareness campaigns involving Gen-Z influencers and youth icons. National-level athletes, young doctors, students, religious leaders and media personalities voluntarily joined the effort to promote vaccination and dispel misconceptions.

Social norms and peer networks served as powerful "behavioural nudges". Local events publicly felicitated vaccinated families and recognised vaccinated girls as peer champions. Gram panchayat and ward-level data sharing sparked both collaboration and competition. Recognition was given to both top performers and the most improved. "Digital nudges" and red-flag reminders for frontline workers enhanced monitoring and accountability.

At the cutting-edge implementation level, resistance often manifests as delay, doubt, and discomfort rather than outright refusal. Vaccinations were conducted exclusively under medical supervision at visible health-care facilities, normalising the practice of adolescent girls' vaccination. Experiences of women affected by cervical cancer were shared to create emotional resonance and encourage informed decision-making. Counselling sessions reduced stigma and replaced distrust with dialogue.

Strategy to impact

The HPV campaign was further integrated with on-going health-care programmes. Routine immunisation days, antenatal care clinics and the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan sessions were used to promote HPV awareness and conduct vaccination drives. When women accessed one service, they became more receptive to another, creating avenues for 'bundling' of health-care service delivery.

The results were significant. In less than 40 days, Mandsaur achieved 100% of its vaccination target – 493 vaccination sessions were conducted through 12 permanent and 27 temporary vaccination sites across the district. Girls who met the criteria, from 893 villages and 190 urban wards, were mobilised, moving from planning on paper to protecting the population.

The magnitude of India's health-care challenge must be met with the measure of its grassroots' actions. Policy design must bridge the yawning gap between intended outcomes and empirical ground realities. Behavioural and systemic "nudges" in implementation can leverage the human tendency to opt for preset choices. Dovetailing health-care data and grassroots innovations tailored to regional realities can bridge the last mile and deliver the final dose.

By moving from coverage to care, from data to impact, Mandsaur turned a formidable public health challenge into a collective mass movement. The district's inclusive vaccination campaign demonstrated how a simple shot in the arm can truly become a fair shot at life.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Horse-trading allegations

It has become hard to make sense of what is happening in Tamil Nadu politics. The election result has redrawn the political landscape with parties such as the Congress, the CPI(M), the CPI, the VCK, the IUML and MDMK providing the TVK-led government its crutches, and the AIADMK imploding. The so-called ideological like-mindedness has given way to opportunism. What these parties did was not quite ethical. Saying that it was done to prevent the imposition of President's rule was a lame excuse to rationalise their politically expedient move. It is most worrying that newly-elected AIADMK MLAs are tendering their resignations as MLAs and joining the TVK. If it is not TVK-style 'horse trading', what is it? The defections are no great advertisement to 'pure politics' that Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay professes to represent and uphold. The only plausible explanation for luring AIADMK MLAs is that the TVK does not want to rely on the support of the allies for long. The TVK's countercharges that the DMK is indulging in horse trading does not stand the test of contextualisation, given the respective strengths of the parties in the Assembly. The irony is that at the time of voting, electors were not aware of the possibility of their elected representatives resigning so soon after the election, for no good reason.

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Political morality, probity in public life and ethical propriety dictate that the sanctity of democracy needs to be upheld and preserved. Public trust is the core aspect in a democracy. Some fast-emerging events in the State drive one to infer that the very foundation of democracy is under attack.

V. Johan Dhanakumar,
Chennai

Blending experiment

The government's latest submission before the Supreme Court that ethanol blending remains an ongoing experiment raises many questions: if its full impacts are still being studied, why has ethanol-blended fuel become the default option for consumers, and why have concerns over efficiency losses and engine damages been so readily dismissed? Equally concerning is that the promised benefits of ethanol blending have yet to translate into visible savings at the petrol pump, with fuel prices remaining high and consumers left wondering where the gains are.

Himangka Kaushik,
New Delhi

Corrections & Clarifications

In the Editorial, "Yes and no" (July 2), the first sentence should have said "... based on Ministry of Panchayati Raj surveys".

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28576347/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Has the expansion to 48 teams affected the quality of the World Cup?

Pradhyum Reddy
is a coach and commentator

Lallianzuala Chhangte
is an Indian National team footballer

PARLEY

In January 2017, when FIFA expanded the World Cup to 48 teams, starting with the 2026 edition, there were mixed feelings. Many welcomed the move, arguing that the flagship event of the planet's most popular sport should have more than just 32 outfits. But there was criticism too, for many felt that the increase would dilute the quality of football. What does evidence from the ongoing World Cup in North America say? **Pradhyum Reddy** and **Lallianzuala Chhangte** discuss this in a conversation moderated by **N. Sudarshan**. Edited excerpts:

How has the World Cup watching experience been so far?

Pradhyum Reddy: Apart from the time difference, it has been really enjoyable. Before the World Cup, there was talk about a lot of the negatives, but it is good to see the crowds. This is what makes the World Cup so interesting, like the stories about the Scottish fans in Boston and the colour that the African sides bring. Teams have caught us by surprise and that gulf with European and South American sides keeps getting smaller. Teams like Cape Verde and the Democratic Republic of Congo have made it really interesting.

Lallianzuala Chhangte: The biggest thing I have noticed is how competitive football has become. Every team is better prepared and there are very few easy games. From a player's point of view, it is really inspiring to see how much nations have progressed. It is really exciting to see more countries get the opportunity to compete on a bigger stage.

Many feared an abundance of one-sided contests. How do you rate the quality?

PR: There have not been many blowout games. It is good to see the so-called smaller countries coming through. There has been a lot of gate-keeping by European countries over the years. If it is called a World Cup, it should be representative of the world and not just five or six countries from South America and the European elite. Nine of the [10] African countries qualified for the second phase. The Asian countries started well, and then the gulf in quality became visible.

But [overall], it has been good, and this is what inspires nations. Even from an Indian perspective, you will get fans who do not normally follow Indian football suddenly getting involved. It is a good gauge of where we are, and the direction in which world football is growing in terms of player quality and styles.

Changes begin: Cape Verde, the third-smallest country to qualify, reached the knockout rounds. REUTERS

LC: The tournament has answered many doubts. Expanding the World Cup has given more nations a chance to dream bigger. I do not think the quality has suffered. In fact, it has been shown that the gap between many countries is getting smaller because football is developing everywhere.

Cape Verde, the third-smallest country to qualify, reached the knockout rounds. Only Mexico, Argentina and France won all three of their group-stage matches. Is this proof of the quality improving?

LC: Absolutely. It proves that football is not just about population or history anymore. With the right planning, right investment and belief, even smaller nations can compete with the best.

PR: One of the disadvantages of the 48-team World Cup is the way eight third-placed sides [from the group stage] go through. It leads to the situation where you are probably not going to have three wins like Argentina, Mexico and France because you can pretty much qualify after two wins.

That said, you cannot just play to get three draws because you have seen teams even with one win not go through. So there is an incentive to [get a win] and that is why you have seen some really good counter-attacking football. Players all over the world are very well prepared physically. So, if they can be defensively organised, the gulf narrows. That is the great leveler we have seen this time.

Asia doubled its slots for the 2026 World Cup, helping Uzbekistan and Jordan make the grade. They lost all their matches, but what effect can World Cup qualification have on a country?

> Expanding the World Cup has given more nations a chance to dream bigger. It has been shown that the gap between many countries is getting smaller because football is developing everywhere
> LALLIANZUALA CHHANGTE

PR: We should not look at the results of Uzbekistan and Jordan in a negative light. It is a massive achievement to qualify. Jordan was runner-up at the AFC Asian Cup (2023). Uzbekistan has done well at the U-17, U-20, and U-23 levels in Asia. So, if you can consistently challenge for your continental competitions, the pathway is there for success. Of course, countries that come in for the first time are not going to see success. You need one team to go far, like Morocco last time (semifinalist in 2022). That will inspire other teams to bridge the gap between themselves and the leaders in the region.

LC: When I look back at those matches we played [against Uzbekistan and others], I still feel jealous. But seeing Uzbekistan and Jordan feature in the World Cup also gives us hope. Qualification for the World Cup can transform football. It will inspire young players, attract more sponsors and big brands of the world, and it will improve infrastructure and encourage better youth development. The results did not go Uzbekistan's and Jordan's way, but experience at the highest level is invaluable.

Only two out of nine from the Asian zone made it to the round of 32. But nine of the 10 African nations progressed. What does it say about Asian football? Overall, do you think the sport is improving?

PR: A lot of the African players are playing in the top-five leagues of the world. That is the next stage of development for Asian football. African club football has not really grown as much as player development. But you look at Asia, there is a lot of focus on how the clubs have grown, whether they are successful in the AFC Champions League, etc.

Even among the elite in Asia, like Japan and South Korea, many players are playing in Europe. They have got a striker [Ayase Ueda, Japan] who was the top scorer in the Eredivisie [Netherlands]. Once the rest of Asia can catch up in producing players who go on to play at that level, the gulf will reduce.

LC: Every continent is improving. Africa's performance shows what consistent investment and player development can achieve. Most of the players from Africa are playing abroad. Asia has made progress too, but we still need greater consistency. Countries like Japan and Australia have shown what is possible with long-term planning. I think the gap with Europe and South America is getting smaller and smaller each year.

India is ranked 26th in Asia. When can we realistically expect to be at a World Cup?

PR: The simplest explanation is: you look at all the teams that have qualified, and they have gotten there by doing well consistently in their confederations. We have not qualified for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup. Qualification for the AFC competitions should become the norm. We have to be there at every single AFC U-23 and U-20 event. The [Indian] women just showed that they can do it. They were at the AFC U-17, U-20 and seniors. When our men's teams consistently compete at all age-group tournaments for at least 10 years, you are starting to build a group that could compete in a World Cup.

LC: We have not built an ecosystem consistently over a long period. There have been changes in directions, uncertainties with the league, challenges in youth development, infrastructure and grassroots football. These things do not improve overnight, but at the same time, it is not a reason to lose hope. We should not put a fixed timeline on qualifying because that creates unnecessary pressure. We should focus on improving year after year, and become consistently competitive in Asia first. Then, qualifying for the World Cup will become a realistic goal rather than just a dream.

As a player, how do you cope with the feeling of missing out?

LC: We were once close [to Uzbekistan], in terms of physicality and experience. One reason we are not catching up is that we don't have Indian-origin players playing here, and our players aren't taking the risk to play outside India. As coach Pradhyum mentioned, we need more players who play outside. For me, it might be too late. But the younger generation should go abroad and gain experience for at least four or five years. We need players who go out of their comfort zone, and that will put India in a better place.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Bhagyaraj, Bharathiraja and the memories they left behind

Two filmmakers reshaped Tamil cinema with distinctive storytelling, memorable characters and authentic portrayals of human relationships

B. Kolappan

I vividly remember the night I went to watch K. Bhagyaraj's *Thooral Ninnu Pochu*. I sat on the carrier of my cousin's bicycle as he pedalled against the stiff wind blowing from Putheri Lake in Kanniyakumari district. That night, we slept on the veranda of my cousin's neighbour's house and woke up to the scorching morning sun beating down on our faces, with the film still playing in my mind. Its unforgettable songs – especially *Erikkarai Poongatre* – have continued to echo in my ears even after decades.

The day Bhagyaraj died, I was in Thukkachi, a village near Kumbakonam. My Chief of Bureau, Ramya Kannan, alerted me to the news. I was stunned. Barely two weeks earlier, another of my favourite filmmakers, Bharathiraja, had passed away.

Bhagyaraj was an associate of Bharathiraja. Together, they transformed the grammar of Tamil cinema. Writing Bhagyaraj's obituary – and, before that, Bharathiraja's – came naturally to me because I had admired their work for decades. As a director, actor, scriptwriter, and dialogue writer, Bhagyaraj broke almost every convention of commercial filmmaking.

A gifted storyteller with an instinctive understanding of human relationships, he dethroned the larger-than-life hero and replaced him with the ordinary man from the street. He proved that charisma did not depend on a commanding screen presence or exaggerated heroics. Wit, intelligence, vulnerability and self-deprecating humour could be just as compelling. His films showed that an unassuming young man could win a woman's heart through ingenuity rather than machismo.

In *Indru Poi Naalai Vaa*, he and his friends are willing to do almost anything to win the affection of the heroine. Bhagyaraj's character accompanies the heroine's mother to the ration shop in the hope of getting closer to her family and even sketches a donkey because its milk is believed to cure the heroine's younger sister's ailment. Such scenes became believable because of his extraordinary sense of humour and impeccable comic timing.

Bharathiraja, by contrast, dealt with more serious themes, capturing the emotional landscape of rural Tamil Nadu with remarkable sensitivity. His films were marked by dialogues that lingered long after the curtains came down. One such line that resonates with me is Sridevi's poignant declaration to Kamal Haasan in the closing moments of *16 Vayathinile*: "*Indha Mayilu Unakkagave Eppavume Kaathiruppa* (will always be waiting for you)."

In Bhagyaraj's *Suvar Illatha Chithirangal*, the comedy scenes featuring Kallapetti Singaram and Goundamani, spoken in authentic Kongu dialect, testify to his deep understanding of society. It was from that film that I learnt the word *siluvanam*, used to describe a naïve person. Equally unforgettable is the street-side tailor's lament: "*Veppankaikku kood irandu kaaka varuthu; enakku kadankaranthan vaaran* (At least a few crows visit the neem tree for its fruits, but I am visited only by money lenders)."

I watched most of the films of Bharathiraja and Bhagyaraj in touring talkies. Those humble theatres, the crackling projector, the smell of the earth spread on the floor, and the collective excitement of the audience whenever a punch dialogue was delivered made watching a film an unforgettable experience.

During the summer temple festivals in our villages, *naiyandi melam* troupes would often play songs from Bhagyaraj's films. Even today, whenever I come across such performances, I request them to play *Mookuthi Poomele* from *Mouna Geethangal* and *Kadhal Vaibhogame* from *Suvar Illatha Chithirangal*.

I watched *Mouna Geethangal* with a young girl, her father and her brother. By then, I had begun wearing spectacles like the child character in the film and was constantly ridiculed by my classmates. Yet I cherish that film for a very different reason. The girl who watched it with me would, years later, become my wife.

Kolappan.b@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Bowing out

Grace in exit: Japan's players bow to their supporters after a 2-1 defeat to Brazil in the FIFA World Cup 2026 Round of 32 match in Houston on June 29. AP

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 3, 1976

Advertisements should carry conviction: Dave

Madras, July 2: Mr. P. K. Dave, Adviser to the Governor, to-day asked the advertising profession to avoid high pressure campaigns where all kinds of tall claims are made for particular brands of consumer articles.

"The public is now getting wiser and perhaps more cynical with this kind of high pressure advertising," he said. For common articles of consumption, manufactured virtually to common standards, he wondered what variations there were in real content. Delivering the presidential address at a symposium on "Credibility in Advertising" organised by the Advertising Club of Madras at Hotel Connemara, he said there was great scope for the profession. State Governments were vying with one another to promote programmes of industrialisation, sell their regions for industrialisation, to sell their industrial estates and so on. Besides, the printed word must teach the masses to tell them of their obligations as well as their duties.

Mr. Dave said advertising men should help carry the message of the 20-point programme to the masses. But he warned them against turning the campaign into "sloganeering".

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 3, 1926

Sea Scouts in Madras

This branch of scouting has not made much headway in the Presidency till now. But thanks to the efforts of Commander Digby-Beste R. I. M. of the Port Trust, serious attempts at starting a scout troop exclusively for sea scouting have become a success. The troop was organised a couple of months ago and more has been working vigorously and systematically. The idea of sea scouting was put before the Provincial Commissioner who granted permission to start a troop with the condition that precautions against accidents in boating or bathing should be taken. Commander Digby-Beste proceeded about the business properly and himself took a course of training in scout craft in the recent training camp conducted in "Rutland Gate", Nungambakam.

From Page One

'A free Indo-Pacific is priority for India, Japan'

Ms. Takaichi highlighted the importance of maritime security as the key to maintaining regional stability in the Indo-Pacific region. "Expansion of maritime security is especially important for regional peace and stability," Ms. Takaichi said, highlighting the harmony between Japan's call for FOIP and the Government of India's emphasis on ocean as a "shared space" that can sustain economic growth and safeguard sovereignty. "In the midst of international affairs in disarray, the establishment of such an inter-complementary cooperative relationship has become ever more important," she stated.

The Japanese Prime Minister said the two sides were "perfectly aligned" to advance common goals like FOIP. She expressed concern about the situation in the Gulf region, where at least 31 Japanese vessels remain stranded near the Strait of Hormuz.

The two sides also announced deepening of bilateral defence cooperation through joint military exercises, particularly naval exercises in the Indian Ocean and expanding Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA).

Interacting with the media on Thursday evening, Japanese officials said that bilateral cooperation in defence equipment and technology was progressing through industry agreements. They emphasised that the defence technologies being exported were intended for "defence purposes and not for warfare".

During official talks, they expressed concerns over "China's growing military expenditure and coercive activities" and supported the need to resolve the Taiwan-related issues through dialogue. The Japanese delegation also highlighted concerns about North Korean military activities and called for denuclearisation of North Korea. "Japan seeks dialogue with China while avoiding escalation despite economic restrictions imposed on Japanese companies," they said.

The two sides highlighted the need to collaborate in addressing energy security needs against the backdrop of the disruption in the Persian Gulf region and supported the idea of "strategic stockpiling of crude oil" to serve bilateral requirements.

SC sets aside NCLT order that relied on AI

"For us, i.e., for those in the province of adjudication and determination of disputes, this by-product of AI, i.e., the production of fake, non-existent, and hallucinated material and its utilisation as precedents in law, is like the release of methyl isocyanate in the province of law and justice: invisible, insidious, and catastrophic by the time anyone notices," the Bench said.

The top court called for a "deeper collaboration" between the Bar and the Bench on AI and urged the Bar Council of India to frame norms to address the issue of AI-generated precedents.

The Bench also observed that the advent of AI calls for "deeper collaboration" between the Bar and the Bench to harness the technology while ensuring that it is deployed with care and caution. It noted that the process had already begun with the court publishing the Draft Regulations for Use of Artificial Intelligence in Courts, 2026, for public consultation.

The draft regulations provide that AI systems may function only in an assistive capacity and cannot supplant the role of judges. They also require disclosure of AI-assisted filings and prohibit the use of AI in judicial decision-making, including in matters relating to sentencing and the grant or denial of bail.

To address the growing instances of AI-generated hallucinated precedents being cited before courts, the Bench directed the (BCI), the apex statutory body regulating the legal profession, to constitute a committee to examine the issue and formulate appropriate norms.

Case background

The top court was hearing an appeal filed by Pooja Ramesh Singh, a suspended director of Essel Infraprojects Ltd., challenging the NCLT decision to admit the company into the corporate insolvency resolution process on an application filed by Jammu and Kashmir Bank under Section 7 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

The insolvency proceedings arose out of an alleged default in relation to a ₹200-crore credit facility extended by Jammu and Kashmir Bank to Pan India Utilities Distribution Company Ltd.

The Mumbai Bench of the NCLT admitted the insolvency application in August after recording a claimed default of ₹87.43 crore. The order was subsequently affirmed by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

The apex court expressed surprise that the NCLAT had failed to notice that the NCLT's order relied on fictitious judicial precedents. It also cautioned that courts and tribunals should not "implicitly trust lawyers" with regard to the authorities cited before them without independently verifying them.

Jammu and Kashmir Bank, the respondent in the case, filed an affidavit stating that its counsel had not cited the fictitious precedents and that the NCLT had sourced them through its "own research". The apex court, however, held that the source of the lapse did not diminish its adverse impact on the integrity of the judicial process.

Accordingly, the court set aside the orders of both the NCLT and the NCLAT and remitted the matter to the tribunal for fresh consideration in accordance with law.

Navy foils piracy attempt in Gulf of Aden; three vessels still in captivity, IMO warns

INS Trikand intercepts and secures Thoothukudi-bound bulk carrier *Golden Arsenal*; International Maritime Organization says 3 other ships are held by pirates, with a critical situation aboard one of them, which has an Indian crew member; five Indians among crews of two of the three ships

Saurabh Trivedi
M. Kalyanaraman
NEW DELHI/CHENNAI

The Indian Navy successfully responded to a piracy attempt on the merchant vessel *MV Golden Arsenal* in the Gulf of Aden, with stealth frigate *INS Trikand* swiftly intercepting and securing the ship after the attack.

The operation comes even as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) issued an urgent appeal for the release of the crews of three other vessels still held by Somali pirates, warning that the humanitarian situation aboard one of them, which has one Indian crew member, had turned critical. Five Indian nationals are among the crews of two of those three vessels.

The Navy on Thursday informed that the *Golden Arsenal, a* St. Vincent and the Grenadines-flagged bulk carrier, reported an attempted pirate attack on July 1 while transiting from Aden, Yemen, approximately 300 nautical miles east-northeast of Djibouti. The vessel, en route to Thoothukudi, was carrying 21 crew members – 20 Syrian nationals and one Indian.

The incident was reported through the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), following which *INS Trikand*, then about 80 nautical miles away, altered course to close in on the vessel. As it approached, the frigate launched a helicopter to sanitise the area.

Indian Navy personnel with seafarers on board Thoothukudi-bound *MV Golden Arsenal* after an anti-piracy operation. PTI

Fortified refuge

On establishing communication with the vessel, naval personnel ascertained that the crew had taken shelter in the ship's citadel – a fortified refuge built to withstand forced entry, equipped with independent power, ventilation, satellite communication and supplies – and remained safe throughout the incident, with pirates suspected to be still onboard. *Golden Arsenal* had been stopped roughly 110 nautical miles northeast of Somalia's Boosaaso, with *INS Trikand* maintaining a close watch within 1.5 nautical miles of the vessel through the night.

On Thursday, a team from *INS Trikand* boarded *Golden Arsenal* to sanitise the vessel and assess the situation. After a comprehensive search, no suspicious personnel were found onboard. The crew then safely emerged from the citadel and, along with Indian Navy personnel, began assessing the damage to the vessel. To strengthen the operation, the Indian Navy also deployed a P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft for aerial surveillance.

The merchant ship had sustained damage to its bridge superstructure and adjoining compartments during the pirate attack.

With the vessel declared secure and the immediate threat neutralised, *INS Trikand* concluded its anti-piracy operation. The *Golden Arsenal* has since resumed its onward voyage. The Navy said it remains committed to safeguarding merchant shipping, countering piracy and ensuring the safety of all seafarers in the Indian Ocean Region, irrespective of nationality.

Ships held hostage

Meanwhile, the IMO has expressed particular concern over the Palau-flagged tanker *MT Honour 25*, whose 17 crew members – including one Indian national – have now been held for more than two months since the vessel was hijacked on April 24. Citing the latest communication from the ship's Master, the IMO statement said five crew members, including the Master, were now unwell, with food supplies reportedly down to rice alone and the available drinking water unfit to drink.

It also said armed pirates guarding the vessel had recently exchanged fire with a rival pirate group that tried to approach the ship, leaving the crew caught between competing armed factions.

The Master was quoted appealing to the international community to help secure the crew's release.

The IMO said the crews of two other vessels – *Sward* and *MV Eureka* – also continue to be held under similarly difficult conditions. *MV Eureka*'s 12-member crew includes four Indian nationals, while there are no Indians among those held aboard *Sward*, according to officials.

The IMO called for urgent, coordinated international intervention to secure the immediate and unconditional release of all three crews, urging Somalia's federal government, flag states, shipowners, insurers and regional partners to intensify diplomatic and operational efforts.

The *Golden Arsenal* operation is the latest in a series of anti-piracy patrols the Indian Navy has sustained in the Gulf of Aden and the wider Western Indian Ocean amid what the IMO has described as a resurgence of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the region.

Kuki village torched in Manipur's Noney district in pre-dawn attack

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Manipur's trail of violence widened after an armed group attacked and torched a Kuki village in Noney district around 5 a.m. on Thursday.

The Kuki Inpi (apex body) of Jiribam, Tamenglong, and Noney districts alleged that suspected members of the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN) carried out an "unprovoked" pre-dawn attack on Leikot Kuki village, reducing it to ashes.

The NSCN is also known as the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, one of the oldest extremist groups in the northeastern region.

Desolate look: The Leikot Kuki village in Manipur lies in shambles after the attack. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Kuki Inpi said the village volunteers, armed with licensed single-barrel firearms and limited resources, tried to defend the village but were overwhelmed by the attackers who used automatic rifles and mortar shells.

The incident happened more than 200 km west of the India-Myanmar border, where armed Naga groups allegedly torched Phaimol Kuki village and Kuki extremists reportedly destroyed Huimin Thana and Kherongram villages in a retaliation. The villages along the international border are in Kamjong district.

Thursday's attack indicated an expansion of the Kuki-Naga conflict zone, which began with Ukhrul district and spread to the adjoining Kamjong and Kangpokpi districts.

Condemning the attack on Leilot Kuki village, the Kuki Inpi questioned the inadequate security arrangements in vulnerable areas of Noney district and demanded immediate government intervention.

House panel pulls up Education Secretary over CBSE remarks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A heated argument erupted in Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) meeting on Thursday, after Education Secretary Vineet Joshi sought to prevent questions being posed to the Central Board of Secondary Education, saying the Board fell outside the panel's agenda for the day.

The CBSE has come under fire in recent months for serious discrepancies in the on-screen marking system for its Class 12 examination.

The PAC, chaired by senior Congress leader K. C. Venugopal, was meeting to review the implementation of welfare schemes of the Union Education Ministry. Mr. Joshi later withdrew his remarks after pushback from Mr. Venugopal and several others, including some BJP MPs.

The Education Secretary started by delivering a presentation on various schemes, including Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, PM SHRI, and PM POSHAN. Mr. Joshi then said, according to sources, that no questions could be directed to CBSE Chairperson Lokhande Prashant Sitaram, who was also present at the meeting, as the Union government does not provide grants or funding to the CBSE.

According to sources, Mr. Venugopal said that the CBSE could submit written responses later. In response, Mr. Joshi, speaking on behalf of Mr. Sitaram, said that the CBSE would need to consult the Law Ministry before answering the panel's questions. The remark led to an uproar and Mr. Joshi withdrew his comments, sources said.

Byelections in 3 Assembly constituencies on July 30

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Byelections in three Assembly constituencies in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat will be held on July 30, the Election Commission announced on Thursday.

The byelections will be held in Bankipur in Bihar, Datia in Madhya Pradesh, and Manjalpur in Gujarat.

In Bihar, the vacancy arose following the resignation of BJP president Nitin Nabin as an MLA; in Madhya Pradesh, following the disqualification of Congress legislator Rajendra Bharti after his conviction in a fraud case; and in Gujarat, following the death of BJP MLA Yogeshbhai Narandas Patel.

According to the schedule announced by the Election Commission, the Gazette notification for the byelections will be issued on July 6. July 13 is the last date for filing nominations, and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is July 16. Counting of votes will be held on August 3.

As M.P. judge faces online fury, case to protect judicial officers languishes in Supreme Court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Madhya Pradesh Additional District and Sessions Judge Tabassum Khan has faced online abuse and threats ever since June 12, when she sentenced a group of cow vigilantes to life imprisonment for lynching truck driver Sheikh Lala Nazir Ahmed in August 2022. This comes even as a *suo motu* case to protect judges like her from "pressure, intimidation, threats and actual violence" languishes in the Supreme Court.

The *suo motu* case was initiated after another Additional District and Sessions Judge Uttam Anand, this time from Dhanbad in Jharkhand, was mowed down by a vehicle while he was out for a morning jog in 2021. He had reportedly rejected bail petitions for some gangsters shortly before his death. The case had sent shockwaves across the nation, compelling the Supreme Court to sit up and take notice.

The then Chief Justice of India, N.V. Ramana, had summoned senior advocate K.K. Venugopal, the then Attorney-General of India, to express the court's concern about the rising instances of violence and maligning campaigns against the judiciary.

'Alarming situation'

"There is no freedom for judges to work," a visibly upset Justice Ramana had said in the open courtroom on August 6, 2021, pointing out that threats, abusive messages, and "peeping" into online accounts take not only a physical but also mental toll on judges.

A few days later, the top court transferred the investigation of Judge Anand's death to the Central Bureau of Investigation. Its August 9, 2021 order highlighted the need to "resolve the alarming situation in the country where judicial officers and lawyers are being pressured and intimidated by threats of, and/or actual violence. There is, therefore, an institutional need to create an environment where judicial officers feel safe and secure."

The same August 9 order tagged the *suo motu* case, *In re: Safeguarding Courts and Protecting Judges*, with an earlier writ petition filed by advocate Karunakar Mahalik, who had said there was a "crying need" for a "special security system to protect court premises and persons related to justice delivery system".

The Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association (SCAORA) has issued a statement "unequivocally condemning" the threats and "targeted social media campaign" against Judge Khan.

Ex-CAPF officials allege 'surveillance'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Days after 20 CRPF officers were transferred and a Deputy Inspector-General rank officer was suspended, retired CAPF officials demanded that the orders be revoked.

They said that action against the serving officers was because their families had protested against the new Central Armed Police Force (General Administration) Act, 2026. The retired officials also claimed that they were being followed and that unidentified people were filming their homes. At a press meet, the retired officials also demanded that the CAPF Act be withdrawn.

When contacted, CRPF Director-General G.P. Singh told *The Hindu* that transfers are routine processes based on administrative and operational requirements.

APPEAL

Ms.Neharika, Dr.Rela Institute & Medical Centre UHID No.12018286975, 3 years Diagnosed to have Biliary Atresia and she has been advised to undergo Liver Transplantation at the earliest. The cost for the living donor liver Transplant Assessment would be around Rs.23,50,000/-.

Please send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Fav. **Save Poor Lives** A/c Ms.Neharika, **Our A/c Details:** S/B A/c No. 20000913487. S.B.I. R.A.Puram, IFSC CODE:SBIN0001855. Please Donate by G-pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. Donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Door No.14/76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600028. Ph. No. 044 42044165 / 9884607377. Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com. Our website: www.savepoorlives.com

Maharashtra withholds amendments to RTI Rules

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Two days before social activist Anna Hazare was to start an indefinite hunger strike at Ralegan Siddhi in Ahmednagar district against the Maharashtra government's recent amendments to the Right to Information Rules, the State government on Thursday stayed the amendments.

"We will restore the position as on June 11, 2026," a senior IAS officer told *The Hindu*. Another official said that the amendments had been stayed in view of the objections and concerns raised by the social activist.

Soon after the government's decision, the village people of Ralegan Siddhi expressed joy. "It would have been difficult to see Anna sit for a hunger strike at the age of 90 years," said an associate of Mr. Hazare.

Several activists had raised objections to the provisions of the amended rules, which included a threefold increase in application fee, the introduction of a new fee for appeals, and a cap on free information for those living below the poverty line. The rules required that each RTI application pertain to a single subject and be limited to 150 words.

Govt. rolls out VB-G RAM G scheme from A.P. village

Union Agriculture Minister takes part in launch event at Mukkavaripalli village in Tirupati district; Chief Minister says spending funds on the scheme is 'not a burden but a responsibility' of States

A.D. Rangarajan
TIRUPATI

A.P. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan launch the VB-G RAM G scheme on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The little-known Mukkavaripalli village in Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh shot to fame on Thursday with the nationwide launch of the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar Ajeevika Mission Grameen (VB-G RAM G) scheme.

Union Minister for Agriculture Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan launched the scheme by laying the foundation stone for a farm pond, to signal that the new rural employment guarantee scheme gives top priority to farmers' welfare, besides rural development.

Later, Mr. Naidu and Mr. Chouhan launched the VB-G RAM G portal. The scheme replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Chouhan said Prime Minister Narendra Modi aimed to build 74,212 houses in Andhra Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and had sanctioned funds for linking villages through 146 rural roads. "With ₹422 crore earmarked for Andhra Pradesh, the Indian government is keen to develop roads and *pucca* houses in the State," he said.

A.P. CM says ₹7,700 cr. will be given by Centre and ₹4,000 cr. will be borne by State for the scheme

Mr. Naidu said works would be taken up with an outlay of ₹7,700 crore from the Centre and another ₹4,000 crore coming from the State. He asserted that roping in States to spend funds on this scheme was "not a burden but responsibility".

Complete transparency

"With 125 work days, any work required for rural development will have scope under VB-G RAM G. We will utilise this scheme to create assets such as roads, drainages, canals and others," Mr. Naidu said.

The Chief Minister added that the scheme would be implemented with complete transparency by deploying technologies such as geo-tagging and biometrics.

The delegates later planted saplings of 10 varieties, such as teak, neem, and eucalyptus, at the venue. Mr. Pawan Kalyan, who holds the Panchayat Raj portfolio in the State, designed the project to plant tree varieties that yield wood, to earn revenue for the panchayats in future. He also explained the idea of a Wood Bank to Mr. Chouhan.

(With PTI inputs)

EC seeks responses from both Trinamool factions on organisational elections

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Ritabrata Banerjee-led faction of Trinamool Congress addresses media after meeting EC in New Delhi. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

The Election Commission has sought responses from the rival factions of the Trinamool Congress regarding "claims and counter claims" made by them with respect to organisational elections and authorised signatories.

The two sides, one led by former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the other by rebel leader Ritabrata Banerjee, have been asked to submit their responses by 5.30 p.m. on Monday, sources in the EC said on Thursday.

Earlier in the day, a full Bench of the poll body met leaders of the rebel faction led by Mr. Ritabrata. However, leaders loyal to Ms. Mamata questioned the EC's decision to grant an audience to the rebel faction, alleging that the meeting violated the poll body's own procedures of granting appointments to only authorised signatories of a recognised political party. "The EC had informed all parties about their rule where only authorised representatives of parties can request a meeting with a full Bench of the EC. We have not asked for any meeting. On what grounds is the EC meeting the breakaway MLAs of the party? We decide who represents our party. Gyanesh Kumar [Chief Election Commissioner] has no role or power to decide for us," Trinamool MP Saugata Roy said.

After the meeting with the EC, Mr. Ritabrata said the 10-member delegation led by him had formally placed its case before the poll panel, after informing it of the faction's special organisational session held in Kolkata on June 22.

The commission gave them a "patient hearing" on their claim over the party, he said, expressing hope that the poll body would respond shortly.

Even as he declined to disclose the documents submitted to the EC, Mr. Ritabrata said the rebel faction had "abided by all rules" while conducting the June 22 organisational session.

"The All India Trinamool Congress had a special session in Kolkata on June 22. Immediately after the session, we formally informed the EC about it in writing. We also met the Election Commission in Kolkata and sought an appointment with the Election Commission of India," he said, adding that this was part of the prescribed procedure, and that the faction had already completed the process.

Mr. Ritabrata reiterated the faction's claim that it represented the "real" Trinamool Congress.

Wangchuk's health worsens on fifth day of hunger strike

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Activist Sonam Wangchuk's health deteriorated on the fifth day of his hunger strike at Jantar Mantar on Thursday, with his blood sugar level dropping to 60 and his blood pressure remaining low. The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) alleged that police assaulted students attempting to set up a library at the protest site, and the agitation received fresh backing from CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya and RTI activist Nikhil Dey.

Sharing Mr. Wangchuk's health update on X, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke said Mr. Wangchuk's condition was "continuously deteriorating" and warned that the government would be responsible if anything happened to him, reiterating the demand for Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation.

Mr. Dipke also held an interaction with protesters titled "*Chai Pe Charcha* with Cockroaches", saying it was aimed at gathering feedback on "how we can make this movement better and bigger".

Later in the day, Mr. Dipke alleged that Delhi Police personnel assaulted two youth for attempting to set up a library at the protest venue and threw away books.

Six students associated with the All India Students' Association (AISA) continued their indefinite hunger strike. According to the AISA, some of them were at risk of losing consciousness, but said they would continue their fast.

Ram temple row: Venugopal writes to PM seeking SC-monitored probe

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Stepping up the Congress's attack over the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, party general secretary K.C. Venugopal on Thursday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking an immediate Supreme Court-monitored probe into what he described as the "*Chanda Chori* mega scandal".

In his letter, Mr. Venugopal alleged that the fraud involved "hundreds of crores" and amounted to a "monumental betrayal" of the Hindu faith, religion, and way of life.

He also questioned the credibility of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the Uttar Pradesh government, saying it appeared to be little more than an "eyewash".

K.C. Venugopal

He further alleged that there was a growing apprehension that the probe was being used to erase the remaining evidence while shielding the "big fish" behind the alleged multi-crore embezzlement.

Alleging that the preliminary investigation had exposed a highly organised racket operating "right under the nose" of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, Mr. Venugopal said the "systemic lapses at every level" suggested that the alleged loot had been enabled by institutional support.

"On one hand, the counting staff bypassed regular surveillance to siphon off bundles of cash and valuable jewellery on a daily basis; on the other, 7 to 8 months of crucial CCTV footage was deliberately destroyed... This clearly indicates that... this is a scam orchestrated with the complicity of the higher-ups instead," he alleged.

Complaints suppressed

Mr. Venugopal also claimed that complaints of embezzlement and theft were either ignored or actively suppressed. "The Trust's former Chief Accounts Officer, who flagged these systematic irregularities as early as 2020-21 and warned that unaccounted gold and silver ornaments were being spirited away, was unceremoniously removed from his duties instead of being heard," he said.

Mr. Venugopal said "this scandal" warrants the highest level of accountability because the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust is a public trust constituted by the Government of India in 2020.

"A State-appointed SIT is neither equipped nor institutionally independent to investigate individuals wielding immense political and institutional influence," he said.

"Therefore, I strongly demand your immediate intervention in this matter to order a free and fair investigation by a high-level independent agency under the strict supervision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India," he said.

Congress slams BJP's silence over alleged land deals of M.P. CM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday questioned the "silence" of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and the BJP's top leadership over allegations that Mr. Yadav's family and associates were involved in large-scale land purchases in areas in Ujjain where development projects were planned. The party demanded that Mr. Yadav either explain the transactions publicly or resign pending an inquiry.

Addressing a press conference, former MLA Praveen Pathak said Mr. Yadav had remained silent for 10 days after the allegations surfaced. He alleged that the timing and location of the purchases pointed to "serious irregularities".

TAMILNADU CEMENTS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU UNDERTAKING)
5th Floor, Aavin Illam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-35.
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender Ref.No:03/2026-27, Transportation of chemical gypsum through open trucks from M/s. Greenstar Fertilizers Ltd., (SPIC), Tuticorin to Ariyalur Cement Works, Ariyalur District on rate contract basis
Est. Value: **Rs.3.72 Crore, EMD: Rs.3,00,000/-**
Submission of tender: **Up to 12.00 Noon on 03.08.2026**
Important Note:
A pre-bid meeting will be held on 10.07.2026 at 4.00 pm at TANCEM, Registered Office, 5th Floor, Aavin Illam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai – 600 035. The Tender document can be downloaded from https://tntenders.gov.in Corrigendum / Addendum to this publication, if any would appear only on the above said website.
DIPR/2195/TENDER/2026 **General Manager (Marketing)/DRO**

e-DIT
CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF IMAGING TECHNOLOGY (C-DIT)
Thiruvananthapuram-27
Ph: 0471-2380910/912
E-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tenders are invited for the Supply and Installation of LED Immersive Display Fan & HoloBox Display Hardware Solution.
Tender id: 2026_CDIT_858741_1
For details and online submission of bid please visit **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Last date of submission of bids: **07.07.2026, 11.00 AM.**
02.07.2026 Registrar, C-DIT

Wish there was an antidote to insecurities, Manish Tewari says after Punjab Cong. revamp

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Manish Tewari

Congress leader Manish Tewari on Thursday posted a cryptic message on social media after being left out of the party's organisational reshuffle in Punjab, saying he wished he had "an antidote for the insecurities of individuals and institutions".

Mr. Tewari, the Chandigarh MP and former Union Minister, shared on X *The Hindu*'s report on the Congress's Punjab revamp, which said he had been "left in the cold" as the party announced new working presidents and election panels ahead of the 2027 Assembly election.

"Hai bada koi avgun usme jise koi hunar aave (loosely translated as 'if a person is talented, society usually finds fault with him)," Mr. Tewari wrote on social media platform X.

Without elaborating on the remark, he added that the Congress had given him "enough over the past 45 years" and that he had devoted his entire adult life to the service of the party.

The Congress had on Wednesday announced its election-related committees for Punjab ahead of the 2027 Assembly election, while retaining Amarinder Singh Raja Warring as president of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee and Partap Singh Bajwa as leader of the Congress Legislature Party, ending speculation over a possible leadership change in the State unit.

Former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi was appointed chairman of the campaign committee, while former Deputy Chief Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa was named chairperson of the core committee.

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Delhi Transco Ltd, a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, intends to invite following online Two Part Domestic Competitive Bidding (DCB) Tender for the following works:
Tender No. T25P640001:Augmentation of 02 Nos 500 MVA ICT along with associated equipment & accessories including civil work at 400 kV Substation Harsh Vihar & 400 kV Bawana on Turnkey basis.
For complete details of the tender please visit websites :-
https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in (Tender ID No. 2026_DTL_294614_1) and **www.dtl.gov.in** with Unique No. DTL-0070-010726
Last date for bid submission: **18.08.2026 at 01.30 P.M.**
All Corrigendum/Addendum/ Amendments/ Date of Extension/ Clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited
5th Floor, BMC - ICOMC Tower, Bhoi Nagar, Unit-9, Bhubaneswar-751022.
E-mail Id : bbsr.bscl@gmail.com, CIN : U74990OR2016PLC020016
Telephone - 0674-2548428 ; FAX - 0674-2540811
No.1167/BSCL/2025 Dt. : 02.07.2026
TENDER CALL NOTICE

Sl No	Name of the Work	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Document From	To
1.	RFP for "Selection of Agency for upgradation of Existing Smart City Outdoor Kiosks into Digital LED Bill Board including Design, Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Operation, Maintenance at Various Locations in Bhubaneswar."	1166/BSCL/2026 Dated 02.07.2026	04.07.2026 12.00 Hrs.	27.07.2026 17.30 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from website https://tendersodisha.gov.in/ Any Corrigendum or Addendum, if any will not be published in newspaper and can only be seen in the above-mentioned web site.
By order Managing Director
General Manager-II, Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited
13001/1045/2627 OIPR-13001/13070/1/26-27/0004

NOTICE INVITING BID
Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751001
Assuring Quality, Saving Lives
Tel.:(0674) 2380950; Website: https://osmcl.odisha.gov.in ;
Email: drugs-osmcl@od.gov.in
Bid Ref. No.: OSMCL/2026-27/BLOOD BANK-SBTC/04 Date : 02/07/2026
Online Bids through **e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)** are invited from eligible bidders for **Supply of SBTC Items as per the particulars mentioned below :**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	02/07/2026, 3 PM	
2.	Date & time for submission of queries by E-Mail id - drugs-osmcl@od.gov.in	06/07/2026, up to 5:00 PM	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		07/07/2026, 3 PM	28/07/2026, 6.00 PM
4.	Date & time for submission of Tender Documents, Tender Document Fee and EMD amount as per section-IV of tender document.	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		29/07/2026, 10 AM	06/08/2026,11.00 AM
5.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	06/08/2026, 11:30 AM	
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMDs, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **https://osmcl.odisha.gov.in** and **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** . The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof. All notice will be published in the OSMCL website **https://osmcl.odisha.gov.in**. Hence the bidders are requested to visit OSMCL website **https://osmcl.odisha.gov.in** time to time for any published notice against the tender.
SD/-
Managing Director, OSMC Ltd., Odisha
10001/326/2627 OIPR-10001/10112/1/26-27/0005

INBRIEF

Police move SC against Sonam Raghuvanshi's bail

The Meghalaya Police on Thursday moved the Supreme Court seeking an immediate stay on the bail granted to Sonam Raghuvanshi, the prime accused in the alleged murder of her husband, Raja Raghuvanshi, during their honeymoon in Meghalaya in May 2025. Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the State, mentioned the matter before a vacation Bench comprising Justices M. M. Sundresh and Sheel Nagu and sought an urgent hearing. The law officer pointed out that the Meghalaya High Court on June 29, had upheld an order of a Shillong trial court granting bail to Ms. Sonam. He argued that there was a plausible risk of the accused absconding.

Centre amends drug rules to ensure uniform regulations

Aimed at strengthening regulatory oversight of advanced and emerging medical technologies, the Central government has amended the Drugs Rules, 1945 to bring stem cell derived products, gene therapeutic products, and xenografts under the ambit of the Centrally License Approving Authority (CLAA) framework. These include vaccines, large volume parenterals and r-DNA based medicines. This set is being expanded with this amendment to cover additional emerging technologies, said Ministry on Thursday.

West Bengal Cabinet clears panel to study draft UCC Bill

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The West Bengal Cabinet on Thursday approved the constitution of a committee headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai to examine the draft Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill.

Minister of Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Agnimitra Paul said the panel would have four weeks to scrutinise the draft legislation and submit its recommendations.

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, on June 29 informed the Assembly that the UCC would be implemented in the State soon and had referred to the setting up of the committee to examine the draft UCC Bill.

According to informed sources, the UCC is likely to ban polygamy, enforce gender parity in ancestral property rights, and curb child marriage. The proposed law is likely to bring in live-in relationships under its ambit and suggest registrations. The UCC Bill is likely to be brought in the Assembly in August. Adivasi communities will be kept outside the ambit of the UCC.

Amarnath pilgrims reach base camp ahead of yatra

The first batch of more than 4,800 pilgrims has set off from Jammu in a convoy of 259 vehicles, officials say; security on the twin routes has been stepped up using AI technology and drones

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

A year after the Pahalgam attack saw a dip in pilgrim footfall, Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday flagged off the first batch of devotees for the pilgrimage to the Amarnath holy cave from the Bhagwati Nagar Base Camp in Jammu.

Pilgrims started reaching the twin base camps – Nunwan at Pahalgam in south Kashmir and at Baltal in Sonamarg – a day ahead of the formal trek to the ice (stalagmite) *lingam* at an altitude of 3,880 metres. "I wish all devotees a safe, comfortable, blissful and spiritually fulfilling journey. May this holy pilgrimage bring immense joy and divine peace to all," Mr. Sinha said, wishing the pilgrims.

Every year, the J&K administration, Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, J&K Police, Indian Army, security forces, local community, and all stakeholders join hands to make the pilgrimage a success.

All set: Pilgrims waiting for registration at the Baltal Base Camp in Sonamarg on Thursday, where they will spend the night before proceeding to the Amarnath shrine. IMRAN NISSAR

However, the Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 civilians dead in April 2025, also impacted the pilgrimage later in the year.

The first batch of more than 4,800 pilgrims has set off on the holy yatra in a convoy of 259 light and heavy vehicles, officials said.

The Baltal route is a steep, 14-km one-way trek. The Pahalgam route is a 34-km trek, with the Mahagunas Top at 4,276 m.

Upgraded security

Security on the pilgrimage routes has been stepped up this year. Artificial Intelligence technologies and drones have been deployed to maintain a vigil.

J&K Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari conveyed his wishes to the devotees. "This annual pilgrimage has always been a shining symbol of Jammu and Kashmir's rich composite and inclusive culture. It reflects our cherished values of faith, harmony, mutual respect, and hospitality," he said.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially the Muslim community, have always played a vital role in ensuring the safe, smooth, and hassle-free conduct of the pilgrimage, the leader said.

Username feature: Signal and Telegram too get notices

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on Thursday sent notices to Telegram and Signal, seeking information on their username feature.

The notice comes after a similar missive was sent to WhatsApp on Wednesday. The Meta-owned messaging platform is yet to implement the feature anywhere in the world, but is taking reservations for usernames.

Spokespersons for Telegram and Signal did not have an immediate comment to share on the notices (Telegram was contacted outside normal business hours in the United Arab Emirates). The username feature appeared to remain available on both platforms well into Thursday evening.

The Centre's move against the three messaging platforms comes on the heels of a week-long ban of Telegram.

The platform was unblocked after the NEET re-examination, after the first exam was cancelled over allegations that questions had been leaked.

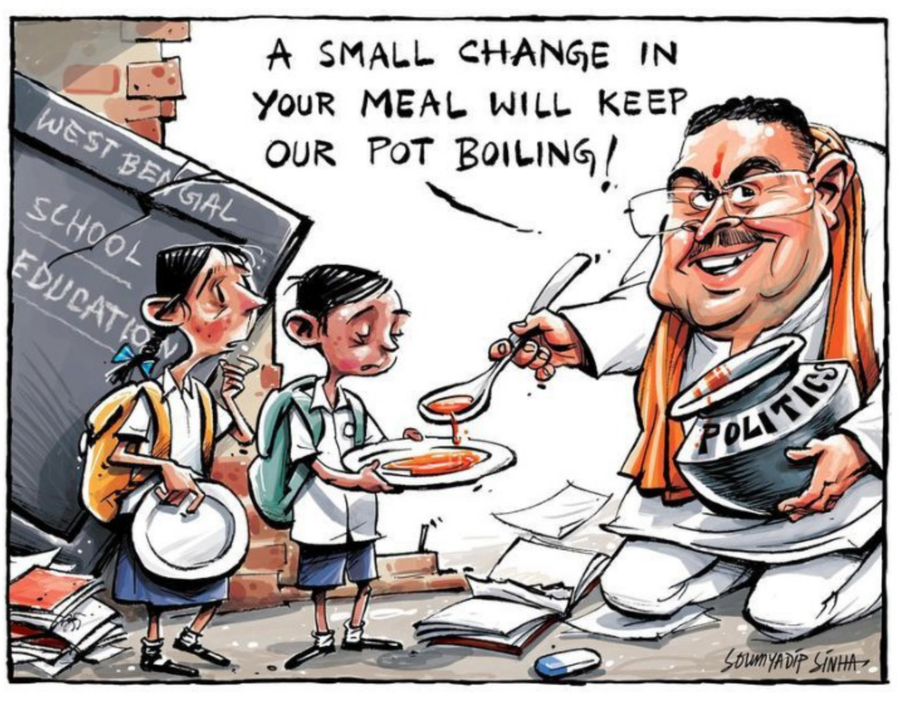
15 papers fail to help Assam man prove his citizenship

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Days after the External Affairs Ministry clarified that a passport was not proof of citizenship, a 38-year-old resident of Assam could not convince the Gauhati High Court that 15 other documents he possessed were sufficient to establish him as an Indian, not a foreigner.

On June 30, a Bench of Justice Kalyan Rai Surana and Justice Shamima Jahan upheld an order of a Foreigners' Tribunal declaring Aminul Hoque, a daily-wage labourer, a non-citizen, citing inconsistencies in the documents he produced to claim his citizenship. These included a copy of the 1951 National Register of Citizens featuring his father and grandparents, voter identity cards, a permanent account number, a school certificate, and an original land purchase deed of 1973.

On the draw



Railways sees 4% growth in freight

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Railways registered steady growth in both freight transportation and passenger services during June 2026, as compared with the corresponding month last year, the Railway Ministry said in a statement.

The Railways loaded 142.21 million tonnes of freight during June 2026, compared with 136.71 million tonnes in the corresponding month last year, registering a growth of 4%.

"Freight earnings also recorded healthy growth, generating an additional revenue of about ₹430 crore, an increase of 3 per cent over June 2025," the Ministry added in the statement.

PF Rules notified; no word on hike in minimum pension, allege unions

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELH

The Union Labour Ministry published on June 29 and 30 the Rules for the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme, 2026, the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 2026, and the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance (EDLI) Scheme, 2026, replacing the old Rules of 1952.

The new Rules were required after the implementation of the Code on Social Security in November 2025. The Central Board of Trustees (CBT) had approved the draft Rules in its 239th meeting on March 2.

The Ministry had told the CBT that the notification of the new schemes will provide a legally sound framework under the Code and will enable incorporation of previously approved reforms.

The government said it will facilitate alignment of scheme provisions with the Code and remove ambiguity during the transition phase along with ensuring continuity and stability in administration of social security benefits.

The Ministry had said that the notification of the new schemes would provide a legally sound framework.

Trade unions, however, said the notification does not reflect the demands of subscribers such as increase in minimum pension and clarity in providing higher pension for the applicants.

To align the application of the EPF Scheme with the Code, the Rule was amended so that it will be applicable to every establishment, to which the Chapter III of the Code applies, and to every establishment belonging to or under the control of the Central or a State government.

In the EPS Rules, the current provision was that where the pay of the member exceeded ₹15,000 per month, the current wage ceiling limit for pension, the contribution for pension payable by the employer and the Central government will be limited to the amount payable on the employee's pay of ₹15,000 only.

In the new Rule, it has been amended as: "Provided that where the wage of the member exceeds the wage ceiling notified by the Central Government, the contribution payable by the employer and the Central Government shall be limited to the amount payable on wages up to such wage ceiling," giving an indication that the government may revise the wage ceiling for pension, a demand of the trade unions.

There is a minor amendment in the case of disbursing agencies of pension, which was earlier limited to agencies such as post offices, nationalised banks, treasuries or scheduled commercial banks including regional rural banks or co-operative banks.

In the EDLI Scheme Rules, the Centre has added definition of 'insurance service provider', 'insurance policy', 'commissioner', 'member' and 'nominee'.

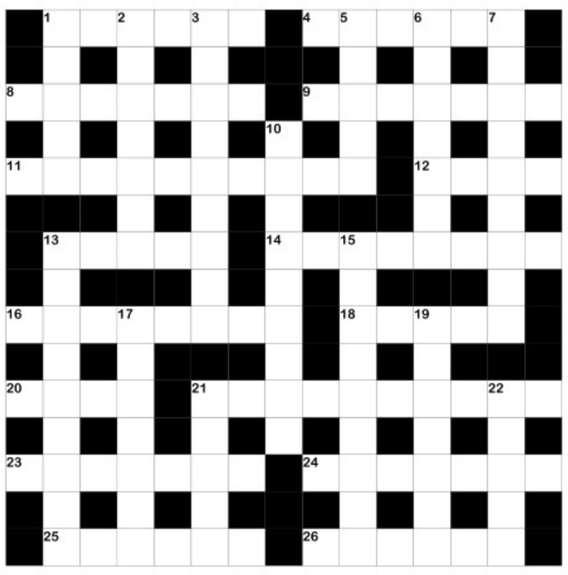
Centre of Indian Trade Unions leader and worker's representative in the CBT R. Karumalaiyan told *The Hindu* that the amendments are cosmetic and the long-pending demands of increasing the minimum pension and addressing the problems in distributing higher pension were ignored by the government. "Also, the ceiling for pension, which was fixed in 2014, should have been changed," he said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14836

(set by Crossant)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1. Weak Queen refused to fast after start of summer (6)
4. Warning boy to leave nasty, immoral habit (6)
8. Mounting covert police operation to nab foreigner (7)
9. Delighted when entering sanctuary in outskirts of Palakkad (7)
11. Nicely go around flashing a new Tesla (10)
12. Bird starting late gets worm? (4)
13. Further education lags in that respect (5)
14. U.S. never bothered about India and the world (8)
16. Maybe Vasco da Gama from Portugal learning routes in the beginning (8)
18. Military vehicles and tense, faceless rows of soldiers (5)
20. Follow hooligan cycling around entrance of estate (4)
21. In fact, session at home is fixed (10)
23. Boy working hard without accomplishment ultimately gets extremely angry (7)
24. What bowlers do when de Villiers bats - won't have slip mostly (7)
25. Makes pens out of unhealthy styrene primarily (6)
26. About to exit central building, understood? (6)

DOWN

1. Is finally all right? Great. (5)
2. Bit of cream soup (no piece of potato) and cheese maybe (7)
3. Listen, leaders of national eminence lost and are angry (4,2,3)
5. Lloyd botched an easy catch (5)
6. Judge one with a drink in Middle East (7)
7. Implements tariffs restricting export revenues in the beginning (9)
10. Say most regressive, senseless last words perhaps (2,2,5)
13. Revolutionary took best, essentially Marxist reading material (9)
15. Check and re-enter if wrong (9)
17. King and Queen maybe switching sides and allegiance (7)
19. More curious about India becoming rowdier (7)
21. Slow person needs backing from time to time (5)
22. Equalise at the end of tight game (5)

SUDOKU

								9
				2	6	4	5	
		6	3		5			
8		7					9	
2	4			8			3	5
	3					1		2
			2		3	9		
	6	3	8	9				
4								

No.SS6930 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	8	1	5	7	6	3	9	2
6	2	5	8	9	3	7	4	1
7	3	9	1	4	2	8	5	6
8	5	3	6	1	4	2	7	9
9	4	6	2	5	7	1	8	3
1	7	2	3	8	9	5	6	4
5	6	8	9	2	1	4	3	7
3	1	4	7	6	8	9	2	5
2	9	7	4	3	5	6	1	8

FAITH

'Bhagavan', the apt title

When we say 'Bhagavan', it refers to Sriman Narayana, said Sri Desika Srinivasa Thathachariar in a discourse. How did Sriman Narayana get the title Bhagavan? What meaning do the scriptures give to this word? The word Bhagavan consists of two components, "*bhaga*" and "*vat*". The suffix *vat* indicates possession, similar to possessing a quality. One who possesses *bhagam* is called Bhagavan. So what is the meaning of *bhaga*? Sastras define six auspicious attributes for the word *bhaga*. From the manifestation of these six primary attributes, all other auspicious qualities – such as Vatsalyam (compassion), Karunyam (mercy), Mardavam (gentleness), Hardam (affection), Sthairyam (stability), Dhairyam (courage) and Parakramam (valour) – originate.

The Lord possesses countless divine attributes. Among them, the most important are the six Kalyana Gunas. They are jnanam (knowledge), balam (strength), aishwaryam (lordship and sovereignty), veeryam (valour), shakthi (power), and Tejas (self-sufficiency). The above six attributes are known as the Lord's "*Paraavara Guna Shatkam*", the six foremost, primary, and essential qualities. Jnanam means he perceives all things at all times, simultaneously, directly, and by his own inherent nature. Balam refers to the immense power to sustain and bear everything without undergoing fatigue or strain. Aishwaryam is the capability to command, rule, and regulate everyone and everything. Veeryam emphasises that he remains completely unchanged in his inherent nature. Shakthi means the capability to make the impossible possible. Tejas explains that he is completely self-sufficient.

INBRIEF

Coal imports decline 13% to 21.13 million tonnes in April

India's coal imports in April this year declined about 13%, or 3.14 million tonnes (MT), to 21.13 MT, the Union Ministry of Coal informed on Thursday. This was particularly led by the decline in imports of power sector and plants that rely on imported coal. Power plants' coal imports dipped about 24.9% to 3.51 MT in April this year. Plants designed to run on imported coal observed the steepest reduction of 27.45%.

Rupee falls 19 paise to close at 95.35 against U.S. dollar

The rupee pared initial gains and settled for the day on a negative note, lower by 19 paise at 95.35 against the U.S. dollar on Thursday, as the support from easing crude oil prices was negated by robust dollar demand from importers and corporate hedgers. At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 94.95 and traded in a range of 94.90-95.42 during the session. On Wednesday, the rupee depreciated 60 paise to close at 95.16 against the U.S. dollar. PTI

Danish brewer Carlsberg files for India unit IPO

Danish brewer Carlsberg said on Thursday it had filed for an IPO confidentially for its Indian unit with the country's markets regulator. The progress and timing of the potential IPO will depend on regulatory approvals and prevailing market conditions, the company said in a statement. The confidential route allows companies to keep their IPO filings private until the launch. The potential listing will add to an already busy year for India's IPO market. REUTERS

'Fuel prices will fall only after cheaper crude reaches India'

Puri says fuel presently being sold was derived from crude oil purchased months ago when prices were elevated; OMCs incurred ₹74,781 cr. loss in June ended quarter from petrol, diesel, LPG sales

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Prices of petrol and diesel will come down only after cheaper crude oil reaches Indian shores and refiners, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said, indicating that an immediate downward revision may not be possible.

The Minister also informed that State-run oil marketing companies incurred a loss of about ₹74,781 crore from the sale of LPG, petrol and diesel combined in the June-ended quarter. Speaking to reporters here on Thursday, Mr. Puri elaborated that the retail fuel presently being sold in pumps had been derived from crude oil that was purchased months in advance when their prices were elevated alongside that of their freight and insurance due to the conflict in West Asia.

Tank full: Mr. Puri stated India was presently holding crude stocks enough for 76-80 days. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

As a routine practice, refiners usually seal their crude oil purchases approximately two months in advance before receiving physical deliveries.

"The petrol and diesel that you buy from the dispensing stations today is derived from the crude oil that would have been obtained two months ago," he said, adding, "So, it was bought at the price available then. The price of crude oil [back then] was not this [about $70/barrel now]." "Today the crude oil that is sold at $70 per barrel or below will arrive much later," he added.

Strain on OMCs

Mr. Puri also stated that under recoveries stood at about ₹1.89 lakh crore in the June-end quarter.

This includes under recoveries of ₹19,905 crore on petrol, approximately ₹1.45 lakh crore on diesel and ₹24,148 crore on LPG.

On how prices may pan out in future, Mr. Puri said, "I am not worried about it, but I have to prepare for it," adding, "Stocking while [crude oil] prices are low, increasing storage space and intensifying outreach to bilateral partners - all that will go hand in hand."

Separately, in response to a query from *The Hindu* about expanding storage capacities, Mr. Puri stated India was presently holding crude stocks enough for 76-80 days.

This is inclusive of crude stocks at ports, refineries, pipelines and strategic petroleum reserves.

To queries about India's State-owned OMCs exporting gasoline to Russia, Mr. Puri stated that the purchases might be routed through traders and not directly from the OMCs.

Indian, Japanese PMs inaugurate Maruti Suzuki's fourth plant

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

PM Modi and Japanese PM Sanae Takaichi inaugurating the plant on Thursday. ANI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Thursday inaugurated Maruti Suzuki's fourth vehicle manufacturing facility at Kharkhoda in Haryana.

Two-thirds of Suzuki's cars are made in India and exported to more than 100 countries from New Delhi, Mr. Modi said during the launch at the India-Japan Joint Economic Forum.

"Kawasaki, Yamaha and Honda bikes too are exported to the entire world from here. Similarly, whether it is air conditioners or power grid equipment, precision manufacturing or medical technology, when Japanese expertise and investment and India's speed and scale join, then the whole world benefits," the Prime Minister said.

Today, the world is grappling with supply chain constraints, trade uncertainty, and a dip in global demand, Mr. Modi said.

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going," he added.

The Kharkhoda plant will be scaled from half a million units to 1 million units, which would make it one of the largest car manufacturing plants, said Toshihiro Suzuki, president, representative director and chairman of Suzuki Motors. The projected total investment at the facility will be ₹35,000 crore.

Adani, IHC Group to set up aluminium project in Odisha for $11.5 bn

Lalatendu Mishra
BHUBANESWAR

Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL), the flagship company of the Adani Group, and International Resources Holding (IRH), the Abu Dhabi-based natural resources investment platform of International Holding Company (IHC) Group, on Thursday, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Odisha to develop an integrated greenfield aluminium project at an investment of $11.5 billion (₹1.08 lakh crore).

AEL and IHC will form a 50:50 joint venture for the proposed project. This will mark the entry of the Adani Group into the aluminium sector. The proposed investment is expected to be Odisha's largest foreign direct investment (FDI) proposal and India's largest FDI in the metallurgy sector, Odisha government officials said. The project comprises a 4 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) alumina refinery to come up in Rayagada district on 3,200 acres, a 2 MMTPA aluminium smelter, a 4,000-megawatt (MW) captive power plant and a 1 MMTPA downstream manufacturing park, supported by enabling infrastructure, in Sundargarh district on 4,100 acres.

Bauxite will be sourced from Odisha Mining Corporation's Sasubahumali mines and Adani's Kutrumali and Bahalda mines. It will be transported via conveyor belt and rail to the smelter. The project is expected to generate about 53,500 jobs across construction and operations.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi and other dignitaries.

(The writer was in Bhubaneswar at the invitation of Adani group)

'Low-cost energy, growing demand led to aluminium'

Lalatendu Mishra
BHUBANESWAR

The Adani Group is entering the aluminium sector to capitalise on its low-cost energy business as well as on the growing demand for the metal, said Karan Adani, MD, Adani Ports & SEZ and Adani Cement.

"If you look at it, two aspects which is why we are entering into it. One, it's a very energy intensive business and it works in the advantage of the group as we are one of the lowest-cost producers of energy. And so, that is one of the biggest competitive edge that we bring on table," he said when asked the reason behind entering the business.

"And, second, obviously we see as digitisation. As manufacturing in the country increases, the demand for aluminium is going to rise. And we see that as a big opportunity, long-term opportunity for the country."

Karan Adani ANI

'Still importing'

Asked it the firm was entering an already-crowded market dominated by Nalco, Hindalco and Vedanta, he said despite such large capacities, India was still importing aluminium.

"So, this is a sign there is more demand. And there is going to be enough room for everybody to be in this market. And at the end of the day, if done at a very competitive pace, India can be a net exporter of aluminium as well."

Adani and it's proposed joint venture partner the International Holding Company (IHG) of UAE are expecting all approvals to be in place in the next 12 to 18 months.

"I would say it would take 4.5 to 5 years from now for this project to be commissioned and be up and running," he added.

Mr. Adani said the project would be funded via internal accruals of Adani Enterprise and 70% debt.

While the total project cost is pegged at $11.5 billion, 50% would be borne by Adani Enterprises, the holding firm of the Adani Group and balance by IHC.

Visa unveils OTP-less payment method

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Global payment technology company Visa rolled out Visa Payment Passkey (VPP), an OTP-less authenticated payment for credit card holders.

VPP users can authenticate transactions with the same method they use to unlock phones. This means One Time Password (OTP) will not be needed to verify the payment. One can use fingerprint, facial recognition, PIN, password or pattern.

"Whichever merchant apps you use, we will allow you to register biometrically and that gets used subsequently during transaction phase," said Ramakrishnan Gopalan head - products, India and South Asia, Visa.

Submarine cable project linking India, Malaysia, Singapore unveiled

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A consortium comprising Microsoft, Singtel, Tata Communications and AI connectivity platform Lightstorm will build a submarine cable system connecting India, Malaysia and Singapore.

"The facility is designed to cater to the rapidly-growing demand from hyperscalers, GPU infrastructure providers and enterprises running AI training and inference workloads across the India-Southeast Asia corridor," Lightstorm said announcing signing of contracts to launch the building of the cable system. No details of the proposed investment on the project were shared.

Dual landings

I-2SEA, the cable system, would link India's east coast, home to the fastest-growing AI and hyperscaler data centre clusters in Hyderabad and Chennai, directly to Singapore, the region's cloud interconnect and AI hub as well as Malaysia's emerging data centre corridor in Kuala Lumpur. It would have dual landings in India, with the one at Machilipatnam providing shortest subsea access to Hyderabad and the other at a new diverse landing location in South Chennai.

Picture for representational purpose only.

"The I-2SEA consortium will operate under a joint build agreement. NEC Corporation has been appointed as system supplier and ASEAN Cableship (ACPL) as marine installation partner. The system is now open for capacity commitments," Lightstorm said.

I-2SEA is targeted to be ready-for-service in Q4 2029 and estimated length of the high-capacity cable is 3,600 km from Singapore to Machilipatnam with onward connectivity to Hyderabad.

"It is expected to deliver the fastest transmission on the Singapore/Malaysia-Hyderabad corridor, which is the most strategically critical city pair for AI workloads in the region," the company said.

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
262713 002089	Procurement of Sulphuric Acid for Unit-I & Unit-II	10.07.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only
Detailed Terms & Conditions are available in tender document at our websites : www.tnpl.com / www.tntenders.gov.in / nicgep/app
DIPR/2182/Tender/2026 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

UTTARAKHAND CIVIL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (UCADA)
(Department of Civil Aviation)(Government of Uttarakhand)
Sahastradhara Helidrome, P.O. Kulhan, Dehradun- 248001, Uttarakhand
Email: ucadadoon@gmail.com; Website: www.ucada.in
Ref.: 4720/04/RFP/MAINTENANCE/EC135P2/UCADA/2026 **E-TENDER NOTICE** DATE: 02/07/2026
Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA), Dehradun, invites proposals from eligible bidders to submit their proposals/bids for the following package.

S. No.	Name of Package	Date of Start of downloading the document	Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	Last Date of submission of bids	EMD (INR)
1	SELECTION OF CAR145 APPROVED MAINTENANCE ORGANISATION FOR MAINTENANCE OF EC 135 P2 HELICOPTER MSN-0294 INCLUDING B1 AND B2 ENGINEERING SUPPORT UNDER APPROVED QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEM (CALL SIGN: VT-UAA) Ref. No.: 4720/04/RFP/ MAINTENANCE/EC135P2/ UCADA/2026	03/07/2026	07/07/2026	20/07/2026	25,000/-

Details can be obtained from the website www.uktenders.gov.in and/or www.ucada.in from 03/07/2026, 12:00 PM. The proposal must be submitted online on the portal, www.uktenders.gov.in only.
Note:- 1. The Corrigendum/Addendum for the above package will be uploaded on website www.uktenders.gov.in &/or www.ucada.in
2. Email Id ucadadoon@gmail.com, ucadahoo@gmail.com & procurement.ucada@gmail.com may be contacted for any information.
ACEO, UCADA

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Raichur Thermal Power Station)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
No.KPCL/2026-27/PS/IND2736 DATE: 27.06.2026
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)
Tenders are invited through KPP portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from the reputed bidders for **"Procurement of 9350 KL of HFO through Railway BTPN Wagons for RTPS".** EMD: **Rs. 49,75,336/** (to be submitted in the form of BG in technical bid). **NIL -** For PSU and Govt. undertakings companies. Last date for submission of tender: **10.07.2026 upto 16:00 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from **Executive Engineer(Fuels),** RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur Dist, Karnataka State.

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT)
(Through KPP Portal)
BESCOM invites tenders vide Enquiry No: BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT845/CALL-4 for **Comprehensive Strengthening/Improvement of HT/LT Distribution network of various feeders in NELAMANGALA division of Bangalore Rural Area Zone (BRAZ) on Partial turnkey basis (Distribution Transformers will be supplied by BESCOM) under percentage quoting basis.**
Bid Documents available: 06.07.2026. Pre-Bid meeting: 09.07.2026, 11:00 Hrs. **Last date for Bid Submission:** 16.07.2026, 15:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document:** 17.07.2026, 17:30 Hrs. Venue: **Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, BELAKU BHAVANA, Corporate office, BESCOM, K. R. Circle, Bangalore-560 001.**
The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through KPP portal from the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers (+91 9240214000, +91 9240214001, +91-8046010000, +91 8068948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com.
Sd/-
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP
Chief General Manager (Ele.,), Projects, BESCOM

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING BID
Bid for Hiring of the consultancy service regarding policy for the payment of compensation in regard to ROW for installation of Transmission Line as per SOP Guideline issued vide notification of Energy Department GoR, Jaipur dated 05.11.2024 for LILO of 220 KV S/C KTPS-Beawar line at 220KV GSS, BUNDI (length 5 Km approx) (32 Meter Corridor Area), Hiring of the consultancy service regarding policy for the payment of compensation in regard to ROW for installation of Transmission Line as per SOP Guideline issued vide notification of Energy Department GOR, Jaipur dated 05.11.2024 for Shifting of 132 KV S/C Tonk-CKB line for Isarda Dam project (Deposit Work) (length-6.823 KM) (25 Meter Corridor Area), Hiring of the consultancy service regarding policy for the payment of compensation in regard to ROW for installation of Transmission Line as per SOP Guideline issued vide notification of Energy Department GoR, Jaipur dated 05.11.2024 for Construction of 132KV S/C FROM 132KV GSS BAMANWAS TO 132KV GSS GUDACHANDERJI LINE (LENGTH- 28.508 KM. APPROX.) (25 Meter Corridor Area), Construction work of LILO of EXISTING 132 KV S/C KEKRI-SAWAR LINE AT (PROPOSED) 132 KV GSS NASIRDA (LENGTH- 18 KM. APPROX.), Construction work of 132 KV GSS at Nasirda along with oil filtration and P&F of Yard Light, Construction work of 132 KV GSS at SOP along with oil filtration and P&F of Yard Light and Construction work of 132KV LILO line from Existing 132KV S/C SWM- Uniara line to Proposed 132KV GSS SOP (Length 9 KM Approx).
Other particulars of the bid may be viewed on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in)** of the state and RVPN website. UBN No. VPN2627SSOB00812, VPN2627SSOB00817, VPN2627SLOB00811, VPN2627WSOB00830, VPN2627WSOB00828, VPN2627WSOB00829, VPN2627WSOB00827
Superintending Engineer
Raj.Samwad/C/26/6057 R.R.V.P.N./TR-7650/2026 **(T&C), SAWAI MADHOPUR**

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
KALINADI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT STAGE-I & II
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919
e-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)
KPCL invites tenders from eligible tenders through GoK e-Procurement portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works.
1). KPCL/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT4285, Date: 20.06.2026. Replacement of corroded/damaged tower earthing wire (Faraday's cage) of Unit Bay at Kadra Power of House. Amount Put to the Tender: **Rs. 6,08,752/-.** EMD: **Rs. 15,219/-.** Tender Processing Fee: **As per e-procurement norms.** Period of completion: **Three months from the date of handing over of site.** Last Date & Time for On-line Submission of tenders: **04.07.2026, 17:00Hrs.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (O&M) Kadra,** Mobile No.: **91416 11197.** E-mail: **eeomkadra@gmail.com/ seekadrakpcl@yahoo.in**
2). KPCL/2026-27/PS/WORK_INDENT4277, Date: 24.06.2026. Carrying out Cryogenic cleaning, testing and restoring of Unit-3 generator at Kodasalli Power House. EMD: **Rs. 38,750/-.** Tender Processing Fee: **As per e-procurement norms.** Period of completion: **25 days from date of handing over.** Last Date & Time for On-line Submission of tenders: **13.07.2026, 16:30Hrs.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (O&M) Kodasalli,** Phone: **08382-256344,** Fax: **08382-256381** E-mail: **kslyee3kpcl@gmail. com / eeomkodasallikpcl@ karnataka.gov.in**
3). KPCL/2025-26/GH/WORK_INDENT4058, Date: 23.06.2026. Supply and replacement of rubber seals for 18 numbers of draft tube gates at Kadra and Kodasalli Power Houses. Tender Amount(Excl. GST): **Rs. 17,34,100/-.** EMD: **Rs. 43,500/-.**
4). KPCL/2025-26/GH/WORK_INDENT4079, Date: 23.06.2026. Supply and replacement of wire rope at TBWCS Gate No 02. Tender Amount(Excl. GST): **Rs. 5,10,724/-.** EMD: **Rs. 13,000/-.**
5). KPCL/2025-26/GH/WORK_INDENT4086, Date: 23.06.2026. Maintenance of penstock gate of Unit 02 at Kadra Dam. Tender Amount(Excl. GST): **Rs. 24,40,918.89.** EMD: **Rs. 50,000/-.** Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders (for Sl. No. 3 to 5): **06.07.2026, 17:00Hrs.** Further details can be had for Sl. No. 3 to 5 from the office of the **Executive Engineer (Gates) Kali, KPCL, Kadra-581396, Karwar Taluk, North Kanara District,** Mobile: **9141611350.** E-mail: **cegateskali@gmail.com.**
6). KPCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT4288. Construction of residential blocks no. 1, 2 & 3 by dismantling existing dilapidated transit shed block no. 1, 2 and 3 at Kadra RH centre. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 196.49 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 2,95,000/-.** Eligible class of Contractor: **KPWD Class III and above.** Contract Period: **12 months(Excluding monsoon).** Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders: **30.07.2026, 17:00Hrs.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer(Civil) Kadra Division, KPCL, Kadra-581396, Uttara Kannada District,** during office hours. Website: **https:// kpcl.karnataka.gov.in**

DOHA

'Positive progress' in U.S.-Iran indirect talks: Qatar spokesperson

REUTERS

U.S. and Iran negotiators made "positive progress" during indirect talks in Doha, with the next round expected after the late Iranian Supreme Leader's funeral, Qatar's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed Al Ansari said on X. "The parties agreed to continue discussions over the coming period," he added. AFP

BERLIN

German ruling coalition agrees on major reform package, says Merz

AFP

Germany's ruling coalition has agreed on sweeping tax, labour and pension reforms, Chancellor Friedrich Merz said on Thursday, a breakthrough aimed at reviving the struggling economy and countering the rise of the far right. "We are working to increase the flexibility of our businesses," Mr. Merz told a Berlin press meet. AFP

BANGKOK

Thailand denies claim that Macron knelt before king during state visit

AFP

Thailand's Foreign Ministry denied on Thursday that French President Emmanuel Macron knelt before the country's king during his state visit to Paris this week, after an AI-generated picture circulated online. King Maha Vajiralongkorns trip was the first official visit by a Thai monarch to France since 1960. AFP

BERLIN

NATO plans to replace AWACS with Saab GlobalEye jets, say sources

AP

NATO plans to replace its ageing fleet of AWACS aircraft with GlobalEye surveillance planes from Sweden's Saab, four sources said, a move that could test uneasy relations with U.S. President Donald Trump. They said NATO will announce the GlobalEye plans during a meeting of its members in Ankara on July 7 and 8. REUTERS

Russian attack kills 21 in Kyiv as Ukraine hits Moscow's oil sector

Moscow says strikes were retaliation for Ukrainian attacks on oil facilities, adding that the bombardment was 'exclusively against military or military-linked targets'; Kyiv's long-range strikes have triggered the worst fuel crisis in Crimea since 2014

Associated Press
KYIV

Russia hammered Kyiv in an 11-hour drone and missile attack overnight into Thursday morning, killing at least 21 civilians in the city and injuring more than 90 others in what Moscow said was retaliation for Ukrainian strikes on Russian oil facilities.

Loud explosions shook the Ukrainian capital, where more than 50,000 people sheltered in subway stations after authorities issued air raid warnings, the Kyiv Metro said. Emergency crews dug through the rubble of collapsed and charred apartment buildings all day in search of victims.

People look at the site of a Russian missile strike that hit a residential building in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Thursday. AP

Russia's Defence Ministry said in a statement that the bombardment was in response to Ukraine's recent barrage of long-range strikes, which have caused severe fuel shortages and put pressure on President Vladimir Putin.

Ukraine's frequent attacks inside Russia – described by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as a 40-day blitz – have especially targeted oil refineries, causing a fuel crisis that has frustrated Russians already feeling the war's economic toll.

More than four years after Moscow's full-scale invasion of its neighbour, Ukraine's technological advances in drone engineering have in recent months given it an edge, analysts and Western officials say. Its strikes on supply routes behind the front line have robbed the Russian army of momentum on the battlefield and made its progress slow and costly, they say.

Kyiv's forces have especially targeted supplies to Crimea, triggering the worst fuel crisis on the Black Sea peninsula since it was illegally annexed by Russia in 2014 and delivering a blow to the Kremlin's narrative that Moscow is winning the war.

Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said it was a "night of horror" in the capital, which had a pre-war population of roughly 3 million people.

The bombardment was "exclusively against military or military-linked targets," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said.

'Ukrainian state ordered Nord Stream sabotage'

Agence France-Presse
BERLIN

German prosecutors said on Thursday that the Ukrainian state ordered a 2022 bomb attack on the Nord Stream gas pipelines, complicating relations between Kyiv and its key military backer Berlin.

The sabotage, never claimed by any actor, destroyed three of the four Baltic seafloor pipelines of the major energy link from Russia to Germany and released huge amounts of methane into the atmosphere.

The Ukrainian government has always denied ordering the destruction of the pipelines, which had in earlier times allowed Russia to earn billions through gas sales to Germany and beyond.

Gas leak at the Nord Stream 2 pipeline off the Danish Baltic island of Bornholm, south of Dueodde in 2022. AFP

News broke on Wednesday that German prosecutors had now levelled charges against the Ukrainian suspect Serhii Kuznetsov, who is alleged to have led a team of divers in the high-stakes operation.

He was arrested while on holiday in Italy last summer and extradited to Germany in November.

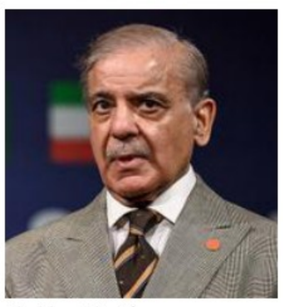
In a statement on Thursday detailing the charges, including the alleged war crime of targeting civilian infrastructure, German prosecutors said that he was "an officer in the Ukrainian army" and that he and other military personnel had acted "on the orders of state authorities in Ukraine".

Pakistan PM Sharif to visit Iran to attend Khamenei's funeral

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his top Ministers will visit Iran on Friday to participate in the funeral of late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was assassinated in U.S.-Israeli strikes in February, the Foreign Office announced on Thursday.

"The Prime Minister will convey condolences on behalf of the people and government of Pakistan to the Iranian leadership and the bereaved families while reaffirming solidarity with the brotherly nation in their hour of profound grief," Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said.



Shehbaz Sharif

Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Cabinet members and senior officials will accompany the premier on his visit. From Tehran, PM Sharif would travel to Turkiye at the invitation of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, he said.

Iran tells tankers to use approved routes in Strait of Hormuz

Associated Press
DUBAI

Iran's joint military command warned on Thursday that all oil tankers moving through the Strait of Hormuz must use its approved routes or face a "forceful response," again ratcheting up tensions over a waterway crucial for international energy supplies.

The statement from the Khatam al-Anbiya military command, reported by Iranian state television, comes after both U.S. and Iranian diplomats met with mediators on Wednesday in Qatar.

It wasn't immediately clear what sparked the threat from Iran. However, the U.S. military's Central Command had put out a statement about having a meeting with officials from West Asia nations in Bahrain that said "leaders underscored their shared commitment to the free flow of commerce through the Strait of Hormuz". That appears to have been the phrase to anger Iran.

"Any failure to comply, deviation from the designated route, or disregard for the navigation protocols of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Strait of Hormuz will be met with an immediate and forceful response from the armed forces, endangering the security of the violating vessels," the statement said.

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU · thehindu businessline · FRONTLINE · SPORTSTAR · The Hindu Young World · THE HINDU

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
East Wing, 7th FLOOR, Swarna Jayanthi Commercial Complex, Ameerpet, HYDERABAD-500038.

e - Procurement Tender Notice

Tenders are invited on e-procurement from valid Registered Contractors for the following works:

S. No.	NIT No	Name of work	Tender inviting authority	Last date of submission of bids online	
1.	HMDA/DE V/CE/12/ 2026-27, Date:- 02-07-2026	"System Integrator Services for Preparation, Development, Implementation, and Maintenance of 3D City Model for Core Urban Region Economy (CURE) and a G1S based Geospatial Base Map for Hyderabad Metropolitan Region (HMR), Future City Development Authority (FCDA), and Yadagirigutta Temple Development Authority (YTDA) Areas"	Chief Engineer, HMDA	Uploading of RFP on Eprocurement Platform	04-07-2026
				Pre-bid Meeting	13-07-2026
				Uploading Pre Bid Queries & Amendments if any	20-07-2026
				Last Date for receiving Bids Online	31-07-2026

For further details visit https://tender.telangana.gov.in

DIPR R.O. No. : 272-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 Dt:02-07-2026

Sd/- Chief Engineer, HMDA

IN THE COURT OF THE XXXV ADDL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-31)
EXECUTION NO.210/2026 IN O.S. NO. 874/2022

BETWEEN: 1) Smt. Sandhya Ravindranath, W/o. Sri C. Ravindranath, aged about 42 years, **2) Mr. R. Manav,** S/o. Sri C. Ravindranath, aged about 25 years, **3) Master R. Raghav,** S/o. Sri C. Ravindranath, aged about 23 years, All are residing at No.16, 1st Cross, Mission Road Cross, Sreenivasa Colony, BENGALURU- 560 027 **...Decree Holders**

AND: M/s. Ganapathi Silks, Having its Office at No. 10, 1st Floor, 2nd Cross, C.K. Chennappa Garden, Lalbagh Road, Bangalore-560 027, represented by Its Partner, Mr. G.N. Chiranjeevi **...Judgment Debtor**

NOTICE TO JUDGMENT DEBTOR UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20 OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 1908.

JUDGMENT DEBTOR: M/s. Ganapathi Silks, Having its Office at No. 10, 1st Floor, 2nd Cross, C.K.Chennappa Garden, Lalbagh Road, Bangalore-560 027, represented by Its Partner, Mr. G.N. Chiranjeevi.

WHEREFORE, the Decree Holders have filed above Execution Petition against the Judgment Debtor seeking to quit, vacate and deliver the vacant possession of the Schedule Premises mentioned in the Schedules hereunder. The Judgment Debtor abovenamed is hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court either in person or through a Pleader on the **27th July 2026** at **11:00 AM** to defend the above case, failing which the matter will be heard ex-parte.

SCHEDULE-1

All the piece and parcel of Factory Shed built on Property bearing Municipal No.48, PID No.48-42-48, situated at 2nd Cross, CKC Garden, Bengaluru-560027, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Ward No.118 of Factory Shed with RCC Roofing built fully on the Site measuring 60 Ft X 60 Ft and bounded on: **East by:** Private Building, **West by:** Private Building, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Lessor Premises.

Consisting of a Ground Floor, a First Floor and a Second Floor having Electricity, Water and Sanitary connections with Power connection.

SCHEDULE-2

1) Furnished Office containing Wall Paneling, Wooden Cup-boards, Wooden Tables, Chairs and Fans in the Ground Floor

2) Bescom Meter No.SEP5604 with 3.52 KW + 20 HP and S2P520 with 11 KW +11 HP and AP5241 with 7.5 KW + 14.5 HP Power connection with independent meter with all necessary wiring and switch boards,

3) With Water connection provided to the Premises.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, on this 29/06/2026

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate For Decree Holders: **G. Sanjay** No.807, 5th Main Road, 4th Cross, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560 040.

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN: U40109KA2004SGC035177
O&M Circle, Chamarajnagara-Kodagu, Sri. Harsha Road, MPL Building, Mysore -570 001.
Ph No- 9449598533,

E-Auction Notification (E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

Superintending Engineer (Ele), O&M Circle, Chamarajnagara-Kodagu on behalf of CESC invites bids from eligible bidders for the 'Sale and disposal of Scrap 33/11kV Power Transformers, 11kV/440V Distribution transformers and Other Materials available in Stores of Chamarajanagara, Kollegala and Madikeri Divisions on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS'.

The e-auction documents will be made available on or after 01.07.2026. The details regarding participation in the e-auction can be obtained through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or help desk **+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777** or E-mail address **support@eprochelpdesk.com.** The prospective bidders can obtain further details from the office of the undersigned

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele), O&M Circle, Chamarajnagara- Kodagu. CESC, Mysuru.

DIPR/MYSORE/396/SSC/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
District Office, Backward Classes Welfare Department,
ZP Compound Kanakadas Badavane, Vijayapur.
Telephone: 08352-276932, Email: dobcmbijapura@gmail.com

KPPP RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Inviting Re-Tender Through KPPP)

Providing outsource services for Group C and D posts in Pre-Metric and Post-Metric Night Watchman, Cook, Assistant Cook, For Hostels & Data Entry Operator & Peon for Offices, under Backward Classes welfare Department of Vijayapura District For the year 2026-27.

1	KPPP Tender Notification	BCWD/2025-26/SE0122/CALL-2 Date: 24.06.2026
2	KPPP Tender Publication Date	No: BCWD/O.T.T/CR-01/2026-27 Date: 24.06.2026
3	Estimated Amount put to Tender & EMD Amount	Rs. 809.37 Lakh & EMD Rs.8.10 Lakh
4	Pre bid Meeting Date & Time	**Date: 13.07.2026 Time: 11.00 Hrs.**
5	Last Date & Time for uploading Tender in KPPP platform	**Date: 31.07.2026 Time: 17.00 Hrs.**
6	Opening of Technical Bid	**Date: 03.08.2026 Time: 11.00 Hrs.**
7	Opening of Financial Bid	**Date: 11.08.2026 Time: 11.00 Hrs (Tentative)**
8	Address for communication & Pre bid Meeting	District Office, Backward Classes Welfare Department, New ZP Compound Kanakadas Badavane Vijayapura. Phone No: 08352-276932 Email ID: dobcmbijapura@gmail.com

Interested bidders can view the tender details and download the bid documents from the web site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- District Officer,
Backward Classes Welfare Department, Vijayapura.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/183/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

Vatican excommunicates schismatic bishops and priests, warns followers

Agence France-Presse
VATICAN CITY

The Vatican excommunicated six bishops from the ultraconservative Society of St Pius X on Thursday, while warning that any lay believers who "formally adhere" to the breakaway Catholic group would suffer the same fate.

The Vatican decree comes a day after the traditionalist group consecrated four new bishops, openly defying a plea from Pope Leo XIV to desist and exacerbating a rift dating from 1988 when the group earlier consecrated four bishops.

Calling the ceremony "an act of schismatic nature," the Vatican's powerful Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith – which is charged with defending Catholic doctrine – explained in an accompanying note that the consecrations were "in open violation of canonic law" and the excommunicated bishops "schismatics".

Newly consecrated bishops pray at the end of their consecration ceremony in Econe, Switzerland, on Wednesday. AP

For the Holy See, consecrating bishops without the approval of the Pope, the head of the Catholic Church ruling over some 1.4 billion faithful, is a direct act of insubordination, leading to the automatic excommunication of the bishops involved.

The excommunication covers the newly-ordained bishops – two French, an American and a Swiss – and the two existing bishops who presided over the ceremony in Econe in southwest Switzerland.

The rite, attended by thousands of worshippers from around the world, began with the society's secretary general, Foucault Leroux, stating that "any penalties and censures... are null and void".

The Society of Saint Pius X, which has around 600,000 followers around the world, comprises fundamentalist Catholics who strongly oppose the liberal reforms imposed by the Vatican II Council in the 1960s.

RELENTLESS PURSUIT

You keep knocking at the rock until it breaks, says Tuchel

AFP

Head coach Thomas Tuchel likened England's comeback victory over DR Congo to "knocking at a rock until it breaks." "When the going got tough, they showed up. It was a difficult match against a team that played with discipline. But the players didn't accept defeat as an outcome. The message at half-time was to not give in".

STRONG STANCE

Pape Gueye lashes out at coaches, to take a break from Senegal team

AP

After Senegal blew a two-goal lead against Belgium to go out of the World Cup, midfielder Pape Gueye said he would not play for the team while the coaching staff stays. Gueye posted on Instagram that "as long as this technical staff is in place, I will take a break from the national team".

ELITE CLUB

Kane second to score 20 or more goals across World Cup and Euro

REUTERS

England captain Harry Kane became just the second player to score 20 or more goals across the FIFA World Cup and Euro Championships. Kane's tally touched 20 (13 in WC and seven in Euro) following his brace against DR Congo. Portugal icon Cristiano Ronaldo has 24 goals (10 in WC and 14 in Euro) as of Wednesday.

RAMPING IT UP

Ancelotti, we're coming for you: Solbakken issues playful warning

AFP

Norway head coach Stale Solbakken has sent a playful but highly confident warning to Brazil ahead of their pre-quarterfinal. He delivered a passionate speech to his squad in Norwegian before switching to English and saying "Carlo Ancelotti, we're coming for you!" prompting immediate cheers and applause from the players.

Belgium pulls off a Houdini against Senegal

The Lions of Teranga were on the cusp of victory with a two-goal lead through strikes from Diarra and Sarr; Lukaku and Tielemans score in the final five minutes to level things before the skipper completes a remarkable turnaround by converting a penalty in the 125th minute

FIFA WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
SEATTLE

Youri Tielemans scored the latest winner in World Cup history as Belgium mounted an incredible comeback from two goals down to beat Senegal 3-2 and qualify for the last 16 on Wednesday.

Senegal appeared on course for a first win in a World Cup knockout match since its 2002 debut after taking a 2-0 lead through strikes from Habib Diarra and Ismaila Sarr in Seattle.

However, Belgium forced extra time as Romelu Lukaku and Tielemans scored in the final five minutes, before the Aston Villa midfielder completed a remarkable turnaround by converting a penalty in the 125th minute.

The Lions of Teranga took the lead when Sarr's header from Sadio Mane's cross came back off the same post, with Diarra reacting quickest to turn the rebound home.

Belgium's best chance of the half fell to Maxim De Cuyper, whose curling effort from outside the area drew an outstanding full-stretch save from Mory Diaw. Belgium unsurprisingly turned to its all-time leading scorer at the interval, with Lukaku having already proven his value as a substitute.

But Belgium fell further behind six minutes into the second half when Sarr chested down Moussa Niakhate's long pass over the defence before firing an emphatic finish beyond Courtois.

Kevin De Bruyne and Jeremy Doku were hauled off as Belgium appeared to be heading out, but Lukaku grabbed his team a lifeline in the 86th minute.

Just three minutes later, Belgium drew level. Diaw failed to deal with Leandro Trossard's delivery into the box and Tielemans held off two defenders to nod into an empty net.

The match appeared destined for a penalty shootout until Tielemans went down under a challenge from Lamine Camara, prompting referee Said Martinez to award a penalty after a VAR review.

Delirious: Belgium players converge on Tielemans after his match-winning penalty. REUTERS

Saturday's matches

ROUND OF 32

Argentina vs. **Cape Verde,** 3.30 a.m.

Colombia vs. **Ghana,** 7 a.m.

ROUND OF 16

Canada vs. **Morocco,** 10.30 p.m.

The day and time(s) pertain to India

Stat attack

2 **TIELEMANS** is the second Belgian to score two or more goals in a knockout game after Voorhoof (1934)

2 Belgium becomes the second country to win two games after trailing by two goals, the first being West Germany

2 USA registers its second win in a knockout game, and the first since 2002 (2-0 vs. Mexico, round of 16)

4 USA has scored the most set-piece goals in this edition

4 Balogun is the fourth player after Zidane (2006 final), Ronaldinho (2002 quarterfinals) and Garrincha (1962 semifinals) to find the back of the net and also get a red card in a knockout match

32 Tillman is the first American to strike off a direct free-kick since Wynalda in 1994 (vs. Switzerland)

1 Gordon became the first man to provide two or more assists as a substitute

4 The number of headed goals by Kane. Only Klose (7) and Gerd Muller (5) have more

6 Kane has become the sixth to score five or more goals in two different editions after Cubillas, Klose, Thomas Muller, Messi and Mbappe

13 Kane has gone past Pele's tally (12) and is now level with Fontaine

124m 44s Tielemans' strike is the latest goal and the latest game-winning goal ever in the quadrennial showpiece

Compiled by **ANIRUDH VELAMURI**

Hero moment: Balogun nets USA's first goal. REUTERS

USA sails as Balogun sees red after scoring

Agence France-Presse
SANTA CLARA

Folarin Balogun scored and was sent off as the United States beat Bosnia and Herzegovina 2-0 to reach the last 16 of the World Cup on Wednesday.

The co-host's first World Cup knockout victory in nearly a quarter-century – and only its second ever – sets up a clash with Belgium in Seattle on Monday.

Balogun's goal on the stroke of half-time had sent the California crowd into delirium, with some 30 million Americans expected to be watching the blockbuster clash across the nation.

But the striker saw red as VAR intervened following a nasty clash with Bosnia's Tarik Muharemovic. But even with the USA forced into a 10-man rearguard action, Malik Tillman curled in a free-kick to secure the win.

The Americans rode out a nervy 10 minutes of stoppage time, substitue Ermin Mahmic's shot flashing inches wide of the far post.

But they ultimately claimed a clean sheet and a historic win.

THE RESULTS

Round of 32:
Belgium 3 (Lukaku 86, Tielemans 89, 120+5-pen) bt Senegal 2 (Diarra 24, I Sarr 51) (aet).
United States 2 (Balogun 45, Tillman 82) bt Bosnia and Herzegovina 0.

A clash of styles as Australia meets Egypt

Ayon Sengupta
DALLAS

Salah. REUTERS

Australia has made a habit of stretching World Cup matches into something uncomfortable, and that may yet be its greatest weapon in Arlington. Tony Popovic's side arrives in the round of 32 not with the glamour of some of the tournament's more expansive teams, but with defensive discipline and resilience that can carry sides deep into knockout football. Standing opposite is an Egyptian team enjoying one of the finest World Cups in its history and sensing the chance to turn a breakthrough campaign into something even bigger.

For the Socceroos, this is an opportunity to reach the last 16 in back-to-back editions and, more significantly, to win a World Cup knockout match for the first time. Popovic's men have been difficult to break down throughout the tournament, and relying on the authority of Harry Souttar, the calm of Alessandro Circati and the industry around them to keep matches under control. Only Spain has faced shots of a lower average xG value than Australia in the group stage. But it has scored only twice in the group stage and generated the lowest xG among all teams to finish in the top two. That places extra pressure on the likes of Riley McGree and Nestory Irankunda to inject thrust on the break, especially against an Egyptian side that can leave spaces when it commits numbers forward.

Egypt, though, arrives with momentum and more attacking variety. Hossam Hassan's team came through Group G unbeaten. Omar Marmoush has been the chief source of danger while the possible return of Mohamed Salah after a hamstring strain gives Egypt an extra layer of unpredictability, even if he is not fit enough to start.

The contest feels like a clash of temperaments as much as styles. Australia will try to shrink the game into duels, second balls and defensive concentration while Egypt will seek enough rhythm and craft to prise it open.

With Argentina likely waiting in the next round, both sides know this may be the match that defines their tournament.

Match starts at 11.30 p.m. IST.

Zverev marches into the third round

WIMBLEDON

Reuters
LONDON

French Open champion Alexander Zverev continued his bid for a second straight Grand Slam trophy as the German beat unseeded Valentin Royer 6-1, 6-3, 7-6(3) on Thursday to move into the Wimbledon third round.

Just weeks after ending his long wait for a maiden Major at Roland Garros, Zverev barely put a foot wrong against his French opponent, taking full control of the Court One contest from the outset and overcoming some late resistance to advance.

Last year's semifinalist Taylor Fritz continued his smooth progress by mowing down fellow American Patrick Kypson 6-2, 6-2, 7-5 to make the third round and remain on course for a maiden Grand Slam title.

"It feels great, especially when you're first on," Fritz said about going through in three sets. Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff, ranked 74th in the world, edged American 28th seed Brandon Nakashima 4-6, 7-6(6), 7-6(5), 6-7(6), 7-6 [10-7] in a battle that lasted four hours and 21 minutes to set up a meeting with Russian eighth seed Daniil Medvedev in the third round.

Indians exit
In men's doubles, three Indians – Sriram Balaji, Yuki Bhambri and Anirudh Chandrasekar – all lost in the first round.

In the women's section, defending champion Iga Swiatek cleared a potentially dangerous early hurdle with ease as she defeated former World No. 1 Karolina Pliskova to advance.

The Czech, back on the rise after an ankle injury almost ended her career, was no match for the Pole who won 6-1, 6-3.

Last year's finalist Amanda Anisimova overcame American compatriot Sofia Kenin to clinch a 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 [10-3] win and set up a third-round clash with 2025 Australian Open winner Madison Keys, who beat British wildcard Katie Swan 6-1, 6-4.

In another match, last year's quarterfinalist Liudmila Samsonova ousted 15th seed Diana Shnaider 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

Djokovic rolls on
Meanwhile, on Wednesday, Novak Djokovic beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 to cruise into the third round where he faces 25th-seeded Frenchman Arthur Rinderknech.

Mirra Andreeva's dream of becoming the first female player since Serena Williams in 2015 to win the French Open and Wimbledon back-to-back was shattered by former champion Barbora Krejcikova despite saving six match points.

Pulling through: Anisimova beat back the challenge of Kenin to keep her hopes alive. AFP

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Men: Second round:
2-Zverev (Ger) bt Royer (Fra) 6-1, 6-3, 7-6(3); 5-de Minaur (Aus) bt Mannarino (Fra) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; 6-Fritz (USA) bt Kypson (USA) 6-2, 6-2, 7-5; 23-Jodar (Esp) bt Carreno Busta (Esp) 3-6, 6-3, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Struff (Ger) bt 28-Nakashima (USA) 4-6, 7-6(6), 7-6(5), 6-7(6), 7-6(7). 19-Khachanov bt Hanfmann (Ger) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; Berrettini (Ita) bt 20-Fils (Fra) 6-4, 7-5, 3-6, 6-3; 9-Cobolli (Ita) bt Duckworth (Aus) 7-6(4), 3-6, 7-6(3), 6-1.
3-Auger-Aliassime (Can) bt Prizmic (Cro) 7-6(2), 6-3, 7-5; 7-Djokovic (Srb) bt Tsitsipas (Gre) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.
Doubles: First round: Gille (Bel) & Verbeek (Ned) bt Demoliner (Bra) & Balaji (Ind) 3-6, 7-6(2), 6-4; Trungelliti (Arg) & Buse (Per) bt Anirudh (Ind) & Yuzuki (Jpn) 6-4, 6-7(3), 7-6(7); Rojer (Ned) & Winegar (USA) bt Venus (NZ) & Yuki (Ind) 6-3, 6-4.
Women: Second round:
21-Bouzkova (Cze) bt Grant (Ita) 7-5, 6-3; 23-Navarro (USA) bt Selekhmeteva 3-6, 6-4, 6-1; Samsonova bt 15-Shnaider 6-4, 4-6, 6-2; 26-Keys (USA) bt Swan (GBr) 6-1, 6-4; 3-Swiatek (Pol) bt Pliskova (Cze) 6-1, 6-3.
29-Eala (Phi) bt Joint (Aus) 3-6, 6-2, 6-0; 12-Kostyuk (Ukr) bt Blinkova 6-7(5), 6-3, 6-3; 6-Anisimova (USA) bt Kenin (USA) 6-2, 4-6, 7-6(3); Krejcikova (Cze) bt 5-Andreeva 4-6, 7-5, 6-4; 18-Alexandrova bt Tararudee (Tha) 7-5, 7-5.
Fallen seeds: Men: 20-Fils, 28-Nakashima.
Women: 5-Andreeva, 15-Shnaider.

Counterpunch: Knight and Sciver-Brunt put on 133. REUTERS

Sciver-Brunt, Knight lift England to 169 for five

T20 WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
LONDON

Not many women have stands named after them. Nat Sciver-Brunt has one.

That is right here at the Oval, where she came up with a captain's knock (75, 47b, 11x4, 1x6) to pull England out of deep trouble and post a challenging 169 for five in the semifinal against South Africa at the Women's T20 World Cup.

And this was Sciver-Brunt's first match in the tournament after retiring hurt against Ireland a couple of weeks ago. That the Englishwomen didn't miss her batting is creditable no doubt, but on this Thursday afternoon, they needed all her class and experience. She didn't let them down.

With England reeling at 23 for three, as a result of some fine bowing up front by Marizanne Kapp and Shabnim Ismail, Sciver-Brunt needed someone to stay along with her and steady the ship. There could not have been a better batter than Heather Knight to drop anchor.

Knight (58, 47b, 6x4, 1x6) and Sciver-Brunt added 133 for the fourth wicket to ensure their team had enough runs for their bowlers to have a go at the Proteas.

Earlier, Ismail had Amy Jones trying hard against the first ball of the second over – it was wide and short – only to slash it straight to Annerie Dercksen at point. Then Danni Wyatt-Hodge, the leading batter of the tournament, struck Ismail for a couple of fours.

Kapp brought one back into Wyatt-Hodge and bowled her. In the very next over, Ismail trapped Alice Capsey in front. Suddenly, England was in some trouble. But the captain and Knight came to the home team's rescue.

The scores: England 169/5 in 20 overs (Nat Sciver-Brunt 75, Heather Knight 58, Shabnim Ismail 2/31, Nonkululeko Mlaba 2/25) vs. South Africa.
Toss: SA.

INBRIEF

Norris says Verstappen's move to McLaren ' not serious'

Lando Norris says reports that Max Verstappen has considered a move to McLaren are "a cool thing" to hear but "not a serious thing" as speculation swirls in Formula One about a switch which could create a line-up of two champions. "It's good that a four-time World champion wants to come on board and wants to potentially join the team. I don't know how much of it's true and if there's an opportunity for me to drive with other people, it's something I've always looked forward to. But it's not a serious thing for now".

India to play two-Test series in Sri Lanka next month

India will play two Tests against Sri Lanka in Galle (from August 15) and SSC Colombo (from August 23), SLC announced on Thursday. The series is part of the World Test Championship. India, which has made two finals but never won the WTC title, is currently fifth in the standings, while Sri Lanka is sixth. The last time India toured Sri Lanka for a Test series was in 2017 when it had won 3-0.

Man City signs Anderson in record club transfer

Elliot Anderson joined Manchester City from Nottingham Forest on Thursday, in a deal reported to be the most expensive transfer for a British player. The clubs did not disclose financial details, but British media reports said the deal is worth up to £116 million, surpassing the £105 million Arsenal paid West Ham United for Declan Rice.

BAI introduces 3x15 scoring system in domestic circuit

The high-intensity 3x15 format will take effect across domestic rankings, zonals and National championships from this month onwards with the Badminton Association of India (BAI) implementing the new BWF scoring system across the domestic circuit to ensure a seamless transition for the Indian shuttlers. Under the revised format, matches will continue to be played as best-of-three games under rally-point scoring, but each game will now be played to 15 points instead of 21. A two-point lead remains mandatory from 14-all, with games capped at 21 points, where the next point becomes decisive at 20-all.

Arachchige guides Sri Lank-A to 288 for five

Medium-pacer Yash Thakur and off-spinner Saransh Jain took two wickets apiece but Sri Lanka-A rode on skipper Sahan Arachchige's unbeaten 83 to reach 288 for five on the opening day of the second 'Test' against India-A here on Thursday. Arachchige, whose 148-ball innings had nine fours and a six, enjoyed a 99-run stand for the fifth wicket with wicketkeeper Anjala Bandara (42).

The scores: Sri Lanka-A 288/5 in 85 overs (Arachchige 83 batting, Fernando 44, Anjala Bandara 42, Saransh 2/77, Yash 2/32) vs. India-A.

West Ham's Mateus Fernandes joins Spurs

West Ham's midfielder Mateus Fernandes has joined Spurs after the Hammers's relegation from PL, the clubs announced on Thursday. The 21-year-old's move across the capital city is worth a reported club record fee of £85 million.

LIVE TELECAST

FIFA World Cup: Unite8 Sports 1, 2 & Z5 App, 8.30 a.m. & 11.30 p.m.

Wimbledon: Star Sports 2, SS Select 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 3.30 p.m.

West Indies vs Sri Lanka: Second Test, Day 1, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

Rain mars opener after India sets a target of 190

Quick-fire fifties by Abhishesk and skipper Shreyas help the Men in Blue recover from a poor start after opting to bat; Dube chips in with a cameo; pacer Mahmood impresses for England

No holding back: Abhishek counter-attacked after Samson and Kishan fell early. AFP

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Agence France-Presse
CHESTER-LE-STREET (UK)

Teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi was once more denied an India debut before rain saw the first Twenty20 International against England abandoned after the tourist's innings here on Wednesday.

Spectators at Durham's headquarters were given a tantalising glimpse of the 15-year-old prodigy as he warmed up on the outfield before play started.

But for the third match in a row this tour, following T20 world champion India's shock 2-0 series loss to Ireland in Belfast, Sooryavanshi was not picked in the playing XI.

It looked like India might regret its decision to do without Sooryavanshi when it slumped to six for two after winning the toss.

But the Men in Blue recovered to post a total of 189 for seven, compiled through steady rainfall.

Heavier rain came during the interval, bringing the covers on to the ground, with the match called off at 19.15 GMT.

India lost Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan in the second over.

Samson was superbly caught by a leaping Tom Banton off Saqib Mahmood, while Kishan was run out in a mix-up with Abhishek Sharma.

Abhishesk made amends with a dynamic 59 from 24 balls – one Mahmood over went for 21, including two pulled sixes – before he was was trapped in front by a Sam Curran slower one.

Captain Shreyas Iyer and Shivam Dube added late impetus, with 64 runs scored off the final six overs. Shreyas struck 68 from 47 balls and Dube 42 not out off 21 before rain cut short the first of a five-match campaign.

The series now moves on to Old Trafford for the second T20I on Saturday.

The scores:
India 189/7 in 20 overs (Abhishek 59, Shreyas 68, Dube 42 n.o., Mahmood 3/33) vs England.
Toss: India.

Stellar show: Cape Verde enters the knockouts unbeaten. REUTERS

No stars, no problem for Cape Verde

FIFA WORLD CUP

R.K. Arjun

The script was written long ago – small island nation, eliminated at the group stage, goes home with a good story. But, Cape Verde has not read it.

Three games in at the 2026 World Cup, it is unbeaten, through to the knockouts, and nobody is quite sure what to expect from the African nation.

Cape Verde became a FIFA member in 1986. After failing to qualify for the 2002 extravaganza, the country made steady progress.

Cape Verde attained its first AFCON qualification in 2013 and came close to sealing a World Cup berth in 2022, only to fall short at the final hurdle.

Four years later, it went one better – topping its CAF group ahead of Cameroon to book its tickets for the North American showpiece.

Cape Verde's first test was against a Spanish side that had dismantled defences on the way to the EURO 2024 title. The Sharks held the Spaniards to a goalless draw through an exemplary display from their 40-year-old goalkeeper Vozinha. They then came from behind to hold Uruguay 2-2.

Saudi Arabia, too, could not find a way past the Cape Verde defence.

It now has a date with Lionel Messi's Argentina in the round of 32. A year ago, that sentence would have read as fiction. However, Bubista's men have spent the last three weeks making the football world question everything it thought it knew. Why stop now?

Rain has the final say as Tigers vs. Warriors match is abandoned

MAHARAJA TROPHY

Sports Bureau
HUBBALLI

Whirlwind knock: Manohar smashed two fours and six sixes in his 12-ball 46 for Tigers. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Abhinav Manohar's explosive 12-ball 46 lit up the DACSS Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 clash between Hubli Tigers and Mysore Warriors before persistent rain forced the match to be abandoned on Thursday. Both teams walked away with one point each.

Reduced to an eight-overs-a-side contest, Hubli Tigers posted 91 for six, thanks to Manohar's late assault.

Tigers were in trouble at 27 for two after five overs when rain interrupted play, with Kruthik Krishna (23 off 19) and Hardik Raj (2 Off 4) both retiring hurt, leaving the innings in a precarious position.

Manohar smashed two fours and six sixes in a whirlwind knock, and was particularly severe on pacer Vyshak Vijaykumar. Ritesh Bhatkal was the top performer for the Warriors, picking up two wickets for just 10 runs.

The scores: Hubli Tigers 91/6 in 8 overs (Abhinav Manohar 46) vs. Mysore Warriors. *Match abandoned due to rain.*

Coastal Kings Managaluru 162/7 in 20 overs (Nikin Jose 51) lost to Shivamogga Yodhas 165/3 in 18.2 overs (K.V. Aneesh 76 n.o., R. Smaran 53 n.o.).

Praggnanandhaa in joint second spot after day one

CHESS

Press Trust of India
ZAGREB

Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa began his campaign in the Zagreb leg of the Grand Chess Tour with a victory over top seed Vincent Keymer of Germany before drawing his next two games to finish the opening day of the Rapid section in joint second place on Wednesday.

Praggnanandhaa held France's Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and compatriot and World champion D. Gukesh to hard-fought draws to end the day on four points.

Mind games: Praggnanandhaa and Gukesh played out a hard-fought draw. FLICKR/GRANDCHESSTOUR

Alireza Firouzja of France emerged sole leader with five points

The nine rounds of rapid will be followed by an 18-round Blitz marathon and the winner will be decided with cumulative points in both sections.

Standings (after round three, Rapid): 1. Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 5); 2-5: Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra), R. Praggnanandhaa, Anish Giri (Ned), Vincent Keymer (Ger) 4.
6-7: D. Gukesh, Deac Bogdan-Daniel (Rou) 3; 8. Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 2); 9. Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 1); 10. Ivan Saric (Cro, 0).

'Asian Games not an exposure tour'

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

The Sports Ministry has categorically said that major events including the Asian and Commonwealth Games are not "exposure tours" and only those who qualify and can deliver performance will be cleared by the government.

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday made it clear that there would be complete transparency in selections and there would be strict scrutiny of entries.

"Asian Games or Commonwealth Games is not for exposure, it is a platform for athletes who can make the country proud. That is why we have the selection criteria saying only the top six in continental rankings would be considered. Exposure can be gained elsewhere, there is enough time and competition through the years.

"The ministry will never stop anyone from that. If federations prepare a training or exposure plan for LA 2028 and submit it to us now, they will have our full support for the next two years. Even individual athletes who wish to train anywhere in the world will be given assistance. But going to Asian Games simply because participation means jobs will not be cleared," he declared during an interaction.

The Indian athletes' contingent for Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya this year is expected to be capped at 560 and Mandaviya insisted that while all federations had to follow the ministry guidelines for selections, the ministry had the final word in clearing names.

Strict norms

"Videography in the presence of a government observer is mandatory. The selected names are then sent to the IOA, who forwards it to Sports Authority of India for vetting. That list then comes to the ministry for final clearance and only those will be allowed," he added.

Ministry sources said that the practice of parents or relatives travelling as part of the official contingent by doubling up as team managers or coaches would not be entertained."

Somaya, Marijne hold forth on India's near future in hockey

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

The twin challenge of the FIH World Cup and the Asian Games that awaits India's men's and women's hockey teams was the broad theme of a panel discussion organised as part of World Sports Journalists Day celebration held at the KSBA premises here on Thursday.

M.M. Somaya, former India captain and gold medallist at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, and Sjoerd Marijne, coach of the Indian women's hockey team, were speaking on the subject '*Indian Hockey: Big year, bigger aspirations*' at the event organised by the Sports Writers Association of Bangalore and sponsored by Accident Relief Care.

While a gold medal at the Asian Games in September will ensure a berth at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, the World Cup which precedes the continental championship is expected to offer the ideal lead-up.

"We are at full strength for the World Cup, which suggests we are taking it seriously," opined Somaya.

Wise men: Somaya and Marijne during the panel discussion. SUDHAKARA JAIN

"We are ranked eighth in the world among men and ninth among women.

"So it is important to win as many matches as we can. The Cup format has also changed and it has three stages, which means we have to focus on every match."

The fact that less than 20 days separate the World Cup and the Asian Games can make it harder for teams physically, but Marijne felt that it was not a cause for worry.

"Like it was in 2018, the World Cup can help us at the Asian Games," said the Dutchman, who led India to a historic fourth-place finish at Tokyo 2020 Olympics. "We have to focus on good strength and conditioning.

"But it is important for us to play a lot of matches. It will help the girls understand tactics better and also adjust to opponents' tactics."

On the occasion, Somaya and Marijne also reflected on their long association with scribes, both during their playing days and after retirement. Somaya, in fact, dabbled in journalism after his on-field career, with the 1989 Champions Trophy in Berlin his first with the pen.

"It has been a wonderful relationship over the years," said Somaya. "You journalists have been very constructive and responsible. You have often shown us the mirror, and we did a lot of introspection thanks to you."

Aakarshi and Tanya advance

Press Trust of India
MARKHAM

India's K. Srikanth retired early from his opening match due to fitness issues even as Tanya Hemnath and Aakarshi Kashyap progressed to the women's singles second round at the Canada Open Super 300 badminton tournament here.

The 33-year-old Srikanth was lagging 10-11 against Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia in the men's singles opening round when he decided to throw in the towel after consulting with coach B. Sai Praneeth.

The results (first round): Men: Lee Zii Jia bt K. Srikanth 11-10 retd.; Yudai Okimoto bt Saneeth Dayanand 21-7, 21-11; Yoo Tae-bin bt Sankar Subramanian 19-21, 21-15, 21-15.
Doubles: T.A. Lindeman & K. Lee bt Achutaditya Rao Doddavarapu & Arjun Reddy Pochana 21-9, 21-7.
Women: Tanya Hemnath bt Disha Gupta 21-16, 21-18; Aakarshi Kashyap bt Anna Tatranova 21-14, 21-12; Tung Ciou-Tong bt Devika Sihag 21-14, 21-15; Rachel Chan bt Rakshitha Ramraj 15-21, 21-14, 21-15; Huang Ching Pi bt Shriyanshi Valishetty 21-9, 21-18; Michelle Li bt Anmol Kharb 21-6, 24-26, 21-13.